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COLONIAL REPORTS

Mauritius

1949



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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REPORT ON MAURITIUS

FOR THE YEAR

1949

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LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1950

Printed in Mauritius

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The cover illustration shows part of Port Louis, the capital, seen from the harbour

With acknowledgments to Ph. Halbwachs.

PART I

Review of 1949

"Mauritius was singularly fortunate in 1949. It escaped visitation by cyclone; it produced a record sugar crop and the incidence of malaria—that old enemy—was reduced to a low level undreamt of not so long ago. These are material blessings of no small value for which we must be very thankful.

On the other side of the picture we have to put the fact that the production of the island is not yet of such magnitude that it can maintain all its inhabitants at a reasonable standard of living; that we experienced another outbreak of that curse of this Colony—poliomyelitis; and that our attempts to work a more democratic form of Government have tended to underline and emphasise class and racial distinctions and to keep open rather than to heal old sores."

In these words Sir Hilary Blood K.C.M.G., Governor of Mauritius, summed up in his New Year's broadcast the progress of this Colony during 1949, a year "more remarkable for material than for spiritual and intellectual blessings."

THE POLITICAL SCENE

On the 1st September, 1948, the first Legislative Council to meet under the provisions of the revised Constitution granted in December 1947 began its term of office. Its first session lasted without a break until the 20th December 1949—an endurance record which it is hoped it will not be necessary to repeat. During this period of 15½ months Council met on 79 occasions, disposed of 70 Bills and of 22 private members' motions. About 400 parliamentary questions were answered by Government and over 100 divisions taken. Even so, a large number of private members' motions had not been disposed of by the end of the session. In his closing speech, the Governor suggested the division of the legislative year into two parts; the first, from March to June, dealing primarily with the budget; the second from mid-August to mid-December.

The first three months of 1949 were mainly occupied in a detailed examination by Council of the Government's salary revision proposals designed to bring up-to-date the recommendations made over 2 years previously in the Swinden Report. The

next topic of widespread public interest arose out of an elected member's motion to modify the constitutions of the Municipal Corporation and the Township Boards by the introduction of universal suffrage and the replacement of nominated by elected Boards. The draft estimates were introduced into Council on the 21st June and referred without debate to Standing Finance Committee for examination. They were reintroduced on the 27th October after a scrutiny in committee lasting for 37 meetings and were finally passed by Council on the 16th December. It has been estimated that Council spent no less than 172 hours on the Estimates this year. For the first nine months of this period of extraordinary parliamentary activity the Presidency of Legislative Council was held by the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J. D. Harford, C.M.G. Sir Hilary Blood assumed office as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on the 26th September, and was given an address of welcome by the Vice-President of Legislative Council on the 14th October at the first meeting over which he presided. In his New Year broadcast he called for a more realistic attitude on all sides towards the working of the new Constitution.

AGRICULTURE

Sugar Industry. In the last three years three record crops have been harvested, this year's yield being 416,000 tons as compared with 392,000 tons in 1948 and 348,000 tons in 1947. Much of the credit for this achievement is due to the almost universal planting of the remarkable cane known by the unromantic name of M.134/32. Two new varieties of sugarcane, produced by the Department of Agriculture, will shortly be available for planting on a commercial scale. They have given considerably more sugar per acre than the M.134/32 when planted in experimental plots and, if they bear out this early promise, should make it possible in time for the Industry to reach an annual production of 500,000 tons.

Secondary Industries. Although nearly 9,000,000 litres of alcohol were produced in 1949, this industry suffered a set-back towards the end of the year by the derationing of petrol and the lack of a market for potable alcohol in the United Kingdom.

Accumulation of stocks in the Tobacco Warehouse made it necessary to restrict planting. It has been very difficult so far to find an overseas market for local leaf, but prospects of disposing of some of the surplus crop to Madagascar looked brighter towards the end of the year.

Aloe fibre production on the other hand, has increased considerably. A total of 1,090 tons of Mauritius hemp and sisal was delivered to the Government Sack Factory, and a small amount was also allowed to be exported. Messrs Robey & Sons, of Lincoln, have continued their experiments to produce an efficient automatic decorticator, which if successful, will prove a great boon to this industry. Its present production of sacks is sufficient to bag one-fifth of the total sugar crop. Automatic decorticators and the mechanical clearing of scrub land should result in a much greater production of fibre and reduce the sugar industry's dependence on imported sacks.

Tea production is now approximately equal to local consumption and the search for export markets is being vigorously pursued. Trial consignments of tea have been sold to the Ministry of Food and on the South African Market. In December the Legislative Council approved a measure of major importance to this industry. The Tea Industry Control Ordinance, 1949, regulates the production, manufacture and sale of local tea, the registration of factories and plantations, the control of the acreage planted under tea, the grading and marketing of the finished product, the relations between planters and factory owners and the overall control of this industry by the appointment of a Tea Executive Committee.

There has been a change in the policy governing food production. Government subsidies for foodcrop plantations and the guaranteed minimum price for groundnuts came to an end on the 1st July. This form of encouragement is to be replaced by the provision of tractors, equipped with ploughs and other agricultural machinery, to help planters to clear land for foodcrop cultivation.

The uphill fight to improve the quality of local herds and to build up a larger cow population has been continued during 1949. A fodder survey was carried out, experiments started in hay-making, and an artificial insemination campaign launched in the south of the Island.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Government has continued to give every encouragement to the promotion of genuine trade unionism, and to overcome the apathy of the uninstructed. A Trade Union Adviser is attached to the Labour Department, Government servants have full trade-union rights, annual agreements are concluded with the main

industries by means of collective bargaining, and the principal trade unions are fully represented on all Commissions, Boards, and Committees appointed to deal with any matter in any way concerning labour. The aim of Government, of most employers and of responsible trade union leaders, is to establish sufficiently good relations between the trade unions and industry to make the intervention of Government no longer necessary—or even welcomed.

Progress in this direction has been slow but steady, and the small number of trade disputes resulting in stoppages of work in 1949 would appear to indicate that confidence in collective bargaining methods is in process of establishment between all parties in industry.

The Labour Department has maintained a close and sympathetic contact with all concerned and the Labour Field Officers have disposed of many minor differences by routine procedure ; differences in themselves too unimportant to record, the influence of which, however, could have become cumulative, with possibly serious results, but for the unobtrusive direction of the parties towards a spirit of compromise resulting in final amicable settlement.

At the end of the year there were 32 registered Employer/Employee Industrial Associations, 4 of which were reported as being dormant and 28 active with a total book membership of 27,989, and a fully paid up membership of 13,507. The other 14,482 members were recorded as having lapsed because of their failure to pay contributions for varying periods of from 3 to 6 months.

The employer associations are mainly composed of employers in particular industries who have organised themselves into federations and syndicates, the most influential of these being the Sugar Producers' Association and the Federation of Port and Harbour Employers.

The employee associations represent workers in all industries and trades. The majority of these associations are affiliated to the Trade Union Council for the purpose of coordinating action on questions of general trade union policy.

In December the President of the Trade Union Council, Honourable J. G. Rozemont, M.L.C., visited the United Kingdom as Mauritius delegate to the Free World Labour Conference.

HEALTH SERVICES

Developments in sanitary and social health services are still being held up through lack of medical officers, but marked progress was made during 1949 in the drive against malaria. The dental clinic for schoolchildren, which was opened in 1947, has proved to be a most popular institution.

The Government medical services comprise two general and six district hospitals with a total of 1,135 beds, an orthopaedic hospital (still unfortunately in temporary buildings), a mental hospital and a leper hospital. There are 32 district dispensaries and 2 mobile dispensaries. Others are to be constructed as soon as funds become available.

Apart from these, there are a number of estate hospitals and private clinics. Ante-natal and child welfare work is carried out by the Maternity and Child Welfare Society in 10 centres.

EDUCATION

Education Officers—a phrase embracing Royal College and Royal College School masters, Training College tutors, and primary school inspectors were placed on a new improved single-grade salary scale in 1949. The salaries of primary school teachers were also revised this year and pensions for aided school teachers are likely to be introduced in the near future. Arrangements have been made to send promising young secondary school teachers overseas to obtain academic qualifications, and also to supply milk to all school children in 1950. No final decision was reached on the project for the building of a residential Teachers Training College at Côte d'Or.

Welfare work among young people has made steady progress in 1949. There are now 35 boys' clubs and 10 girls' clubs in existence. Residential training courses for 100 youth leaders were held at the Canonniere Point holiday camp, and more than 1,000 schoolchildren, chosen from among the poorest, spent an unforgettable week at the same camp.

SOCIAL SERVICE AND SELF-HELP

The rapid expansion of the co-operative movement, to which attention was drawn in the 1948 Report, has continued unchecked in 1949 with the registration of another 40 societies. No less than 27 of these were thrift and savings societies. This brings the total of active co-operative organizations, up to the end of 1949, to 116 credit societies of unlimited liability and 2 of limited liability, 36 thrift and savings societies, 1 marketing society,

63 consumer societies (co-operative stores) and the Co-operative Central Bank, Ltd. A wholesale society, to supply the co-operative stores, was registered in October but had not begun operations by the end of the year.

Another example of self-help is the Montebello mixed farm, operated by ex-servicemen and financially aided by the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee. The poultry and livestock produced by this farm find a ready sale through the Ex-Servicemen's House and the Cold Storage in Port Louis.

The decentralization of the administration of poor relief was pushed a stage further in 1949 by the increase in the number of voluntary Public Assistance Committees to 36 and by the announcement that a non-contributory old age pension scheme would shortly be introduced by the Government. Conditions in the state-aided orphanages were improved and attention was paid to improving the morale of the inmates by arranging more frequent outings for them. A large party of orphans spent a week at the seaside holiday camp organised by the Education Department.

The " Help the Children Fund " launched in 1948, held its annual general collection on the 2nd December and public response was once again encouraging. Despite the handicap of lack of funds, the School for the Blind expanded its activities and found a ready sale for its mats, baskets and other products. It is proposed to set up a register of the blind in the near future, and to base a reorganization of the School on its findings.

The several voluntary organizations functioning, the biggest of which is the Maternity and Child Welfare Society, continued their admirable work with the help of grants made from government funds. The Labour Welfare Fund Committee approved the erection of 14 social welfare centres in the rural districts, and work was begun on 6 of these. The Village Councils in whose areas these centres are being constructed are expected to take a large share in their management.

A stirring appeal for an intensification of social service was made by the Governor at the end of the year. He said " Every community or group has its contribution to make to Mauritius as a whole, and if any one group suffers the others must suffer also ; each one has its contribution to make to the welfare of the others and if that contribution is not made the welfare of the whole must suffer. I suggest that an aim for 1950 might well be fellowship, active fellowship, which involves service for others."

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Although the Railways are still the backbone of the goods transport system of the Colony, the retention of this service was strongly criticised by some members of Council towards the close of the first session. It was clearly recognized, however, that the present road system—good though it undoubtedly is—could not possibly cope with the transport of sugar and other heavy goods in addition to its present burden of passenger and light goods transport. The General Manager of Railways has left for London for consultations on the best means of tackling this problem.

In October the sudden strike of bus owners and railway personnel focussed public attention on the inchoate state of road passenger transport, and public opinion as expressed in the press and elsewhere appears to be hardening in favour of a state-controlled monopoly of properly organised road services at reasonable and economic prices.

Passenger shipping services are still irregular but the position is considerably relieved by the weekly air service operated by Air France, linking the Colony with East Africa and Europe. The service operated by Skyways Ltd. between East Africa and Mauritius was discontinued in July.

The demand for new telephone services continues to exceed the rate of supply, the latter being limited by the shortage of exchange equipment and other materials. Nevertheless, a total of almost three and a half million calls was made during the year. Improvements were carried out at the Tamarin Falls station of the General Electric Supply Co. and the number of units generated at this and the other hydro-electric stations amounted to seventeen and a half million, an increase of two million units over the previous year's total.

Steady expansion took place in the posts and telegraph service. There are now 77 post offices and postal agencies in operation, and approval has been granted for the opening of another six agencies and for the conversion of an existing agency into a post office. Postal deliveries by rail were supplemented by a motor mail service. Overseas telecommunications are maintained by Cable and Wireless Ltd., and the Government operates a wireless ship-to-shore station.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service made further progress in 1949. A Chinese programme was added to the existing services in three languages ; overseas listeners now have a regular short wave transmission amounting to 5 hours daily ; the number of radio licences taken out jumped by almost 2,000 to the end-of-the-year figure of 6,934, and most of the Village Councils have acquired community listening sets.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government in Mauritius consists of the long established Municipal Corporation of Port Louis and Township Boards of Curepipe, Quatre Bornes and Rose Hill-Beau Bassin, together with those newcomers in rural areas—the village councils. There were 80 of the latter in existence by the end of 1949, working under the guidance of the three Civil Commissioners appointed to administer the rural areas and financed mainly by subventions from Government funds. Although the village councils have not yet been granted legal status, involving the power to **make** by-laws and collect local rates and taxes, they have made steady progress, particularly in the south of the Island. Works of quite an ambitious nature have been undertaken, such as the building of primary schools, council halls and markets, the provision of village water supplies and the operation of scavenging services and cemetery maintenance. Draft legislation, prepared in 1946, has been revised and brought up to date, and it is hoped to secure the passage of a Village Council Ordinance fairly early in 1950.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The fate of the Government publicity services (which include the Mauritius Broadcasting and News Service, and the Mobile Cinema Unit) lay for a time in the balance during Council's examination of the draft estimates, but the financial provision sought for was ultimately approved without alteration. In the course of the debate the Government spokesman emphasised the importance of developing and maintaining adequate information services as an integral part of modern administration.

VISITORS OF NOTE

Mr. C. B. Symes O.B.E., of the Colonial Insecticides Committee, returned to Mauritius on a ten day visit in January. An electrical expert, Mr. C. H. Brasel, C.M.G., M.C., also came in January to advise on electrical developments in this Colony. Dr. Herklots, of the Research branch of the Colonial office, visited Mauritius in March. In the following month the island welcomed Mr. C. G. Eastwood, C.M.G., Assistant Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. Dr. Hamlin returned in May, and in June a Geological team from Capetown University began work. The head of this team, Professor Walker, arrived by air in July.

No less than three other visitors of note came in July—Mr. H. H. Stage, Assistant Chief of the Division dealing with insects affecting men and animals, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. W. M. Clyde, C.M.G., Director of Economic Affairs to the U.K. High Commissioner for South-East Asia, and Dr. F. Hickling, Fisheries Adviser to the Colonial Office.

Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Woodhouse, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief East Indies Station, arrived on the flagship H.M.S. *Birmingham* in September, and the Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Thomas Lloyd, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., reached the Island in October during his tour of East Africa and the adjoining islands.

THE DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE TEN YEAR PLAN

In view of the revision of the Constitution in 1948, the then Governor, Sir Donal Mackenzie-Kennedy, considered that the draft Development and Welfare Estimates for 1948-49 should not be laid until after the general elections had taken place so as to give to the new Council the opportunity of examining the ten year plan. Consequently, the draft estimates were not presented until the 21st of September, 1949. At a subsequent meeting of Legislative Council held on the 5th of October it was resolved that the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan and the draft estimates for 1948-49 should be referred to a Select Committee of the whole Council under the chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary.

An exhaustive examination of both plan and estimates was carried out by this Select Committee whose report was laid on the table of Council on the 14th of December. From the views expressed in subsequent debate it became clear that many members desired a recasting of the Ten Year Plan. The Officer Administering the Government accordingly, at the Council meeting held on the 25th January, 1949, proposed the constitution of a Reviewing Committee and the draft estimates 1948-49 were passed on the same day subject to the important reservation that no new work should be undertaken during the financial year and no new posts created.

These reservations resulted in the holding-up of the building programme and of some other projects (e.g., the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal scheme) pending the conclusion of the review of the Ten Year Plan.

In February 1949 elected and nominated members of Council were asked to select their own representatives on the Reviewing Committee (in the proportion of 6 to 4). The committee was formally constituted on the 12th March with the following terms of reference:

"To consider the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan and to make recommendations to the Government on such revision as may seem to the Committee desirable, paying due regard to the principles laid down for the formation of such Plans and to the conditions on which schemes and grants of funds have already been approved by the Secretary of State."

The first meeting of the committee was held on the 16th March and two interim reports were submitted in April and November 1949. Up to the 31st of December the committee had held 43 meetings. It is expected that it will complete its task early in 1950.

Pending the results of this revision the execution of new works has, of necessity been held up but works already started have progressed satisfactorily.

MAURITIUS-SEYCHELLES FISHERIES SURVEY

(RESEARCH SCHEME R. 88)

This two-year survey of the banks between Mauritius and Seychelles, undertaken under the direction of Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler, was completed in December 1949. Dr. Wheeler's final report and recommendations are not yet available but the data obtained are promising.

It is not out of place to mention here that the newly formed Indian Ocean Trading Co. Ltd., has purchased, refitted and equipped a corvette, the "Silverlord," to undertake deep-sea fishing on the banks between Mauritius and the Seychelles. At the time this report is being written, the "Silverlord" is on its first fishing expedition, the results of which are anxiously awaited. More information about this scheme is given in Part II, Chapter VI of the Report, in the section headed "Fisheries."

Anti-Malaria Works

A two-year island-wide campaign of malaria eradication by means of insecticides was started in January 1949. The cost of the campaign is met partly from a free grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Research Fund under Scheme R. 227 and partly from the Colony's funds in the following proportion—

- (a) the estimated expenses of the Research Team appointed by the Colonial Insecticides Committee are covered by a grant of approximately Rs. 390,000 ;
- (b) the cost of the anti-malaria measures, amounting to about Rs. 3,000,000 is being financed by the Colony.

The research team is under the direction of Dr. M. A. C. Dowling and comprises a Chemist, an Entomologist and six Field Officers. For the purpose of the experiment, the island is divided into six districts, each of which is under the control of a Field Officer. It is intended to spray every house, outhouse or stable which can possibly act as a harbouring place for the adult

anopheles mosquito, with the exception of a central upland area within which the mosquito vector is only a chance visitor and in which malaria is not a problem of importance.

Spraying began simultaneously in the six districts in January 1949, and has been continued as fast as possible within the limits necessary for the efficient application of residual insecticides to surfaces.

By the end of the year the results obtained from this chemical attack on the worst scourge in Mauritius were extremely encouraging. The whole population has co-operated enthusiastically and intelligently, thereby greatly lightening the task of the field officers and spraying teams.

Meanwhile, the official attitude is that there should not be undue dependence on any one method of attack but that all known means of eradicating malaria should be simultaneously applied. Permanent works aimed at abolishing mosquito breeding places by the canalization of rivers and drainage of swamps in the more populous areas of the island—Port Louis, Plaines Wilhems, Moka and Pamplemousses—have therefore been continued, but no new engineering works have been undertaken until the final results of the insecticide experiment are available.

It need hardly be stressed that the eradication of malaria from Mauritius would be an achievement of inestimable benefit to the Island.

WATER WORKS

Improved deliveries of materials and equipment have allowed good progress to be made in the water supply programme.

Mare Longue Reservoir (with a capacity of 220 million cubic feet) was completed in September and though the storage has not yet reached full capacity, water is already supplied to the electric power station of the General Electric Supply Company. Immediately work on the Mare Longue project was completed, the labour force and heavy equipment employed there was switched to the site of the new domestic-supply reservoir at Piton du Milieu. When this reservoir comes into operation, probably in 1952, it and Mare-aux-Vacoas will provide the potable water needs of the entire island apart from a small remote area in the south which will be independently served. Work has also begun on the Magenta Irrigation Canal which is to carry water from the power station to the Black River District.

In the north of the Island the Goodlands reinforced concrete service reservoir, capable of holding 300,000 gallons of potable water, was completed, and very good progress was made on a similar reservoir at Plaine des Papayes. The laying of new mains throughout the island to link up the Mare-aux-Vacoas and Piton du Milieu reservoirs with the various storage reservoirs and filter beds was pursued steadily during 1949. As is the case with the malaria campaign, the plan to provide ample supplies of water for domestic purposes to all who live here must be tackled simultaneously on several fronts. Unfortunately, the public at large, particularly in the rural areas, does not appreciate the complexities of this plan, and frequently complains that nothing is being done to remedy the present shortage.

A financial summary of the Ten Year plan and a statement of approved grants are given as Appendix V to this Report.

CONCLUSION

A budget surplus, a record sugar crop, a year free of cyclones, success in sight in the campaign to eradicate malaria, better social services—all these material blessings were showered on Mauritius in 1949. But the living conditions of many of its people remain unduly low ; politically, the Island has not yet settled down to the conditions created by the grant of a new Constitution, and that mutual exclusiveness which is a marked feature of Mauritian social life continues to act as a brake on progress.

PART II

Chapter I : Population

Until about 100 years ago, the population of the Island was composed entirely of the descendants of European settlers and of the African slaves imported by them, but since then there has been a steady immigration of Indians who were brought in as indentured agricultural workers during the early days of British occupation. Most of these immigrants settled in the Island, and this Indian population to-day greatly outnumbers the inhabitants of European and of African origin. There is also a small community of Chinese immigrants.

For statistical purposes the convention has been adopted of dividing the whole population into three classes: (i) the General population, comprising Europeans and descendants of Europeans, and people of African and mixed origin; (ii) the Indian population proper, made up of Indian immigrants and their unmixed descendants; and (iii) the Chinese population consisting of immigrants from China and their descendants.

Of these three classes, the Indian constitutes the largest percentage (63%) of the total population. This Indian population is divided into two main groups, Hindus and Moslems, in the ratio of about 3.5 to 1. The Chinese are the smallest racial group, constituting only about 2½% of the total population. They are engaged for the most part in trade, and practically monopolize the retail grocery and liquor trade of the Island.

The resident population of the Island as at 31st December, 1949, was approximately 457,000 not counting the 15,000 inhabitants of the neighbouring islands which are dependencies of Mauritius. In addition, by the end of 1949, 10,664 male members of the native population had left for temporary overseas service of a military character. The present population is 2.9 times what it was a century ago. It has been steadily increasing in the course of the last ten years at an average rate of 4,200 per annum or by roughly 9 persons per 1,000 of population. The density of population in different parts of this small Island covering barely 720 square miles is extraordinarily variable. In the low-lying western district there is a population density of a little more than a hundred persons to the square mile; but on the central plateau migration has brought about a concentration of more than 1,000 to the square mile. In the towns there is considerable overcrowding; in the capital, Port Louis, recent

census enumeration has revealed the existence of 27,000 persons over a single square mile ; while in the second largest town, Curepipe, the number of inhabitants per unit area has increased by 40% in the last 13 years. In fact 37% of the total population at present live in towns. The population of the principal townships at the census of 1944 was :

1. Port Louis	...	...	...	...	57,446
2. Curepipe	...	...	...	...	27,468
3. Rose Hill and Beau Bassin	...	...	...	...	26,612
4. Quatre Bornes	...	...	...	...	11,100

SEX DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

One noteworthy feature of ethnical significance differentiating the two main classes of the population is to be found in the sex distribution ; whereas in the General population the number of females has always been in excess of the number of males, in the Indian population it is almost exactly the reverse and this feature has been noteworthy for at least the past 25 years. It is not accounted for by the preponderance in birth rate of one sex ; for although it is true for the Indian, it is not for the General population, in which the male births have always been slightly in excess.

The disproportion between the sexes in Mauritius is of long standing and was due in the beginning to the preponderance of male immigration. This disproportion has been gradually readjusting itself by a natural process in the course of the past century, though the effect may still persist to a certain degree in the Indian class of the population. There are, however, definite indications from the results of the census of 1944 that after the age of 50 the survival of the female in the General population is greater than that of the male. In the Indian population it is after the age of 60 that the survival of the female is markedly greater than that of the male.

BIRTH-RATES

The birth-rates in the General population which had dropped during the decade 1936-1945 from an average of about 36 per 1,000 in 1936 to about 32 per 1,000 in 1945, reverted to 37 per 1,000 in 1947 and to 36 per 1,000 in 1948 ; the birth-rate has recently increased very remarkably in the Indian population ; in 1943 it was 33 per thousand ; in 1944 it rose to 50.6 per 1,000 (the highest level on record) and in 1945 and 1946 it remained at about 42 per 1,000 ; in 1948 it rose to 47 per 1,000. The total number of births for 1949 has reached the record figure of 20,472 which represents about 46.1 per 1,000 of the mid-year resident population.

DEATH-RATES

The death rate, which was at a previous ten-year average level of 28.3 per 1,000 for the whole population, increased to 36.1 per 1,000 in 1945, the year of two severe cyclones, and to 29.5 in 1946. In 1947, the death rate dropped to the lowest level then on record: 20.1 per 1,000. In 1948, the rate was 23.8 per 1,000. In 1949 it dropped to a new low record of 16.6 per 1,000 of the mid-year resident population.

Infantile mortality is comparatively high in Mauritius. It oscillates around 150 per 1,000 live births, but in 1945, it reached the very high figure of 188 per 1,000. In 1946, it was 145.4; in 1947, 113.9; in 1948 it rose to 186 per 1,000. In 1949, the infantile mortality rate was remarkably low—being about 91 per 1,000 live births.

The 1944 census revealed that about 35% of the marriageable persons of both sexes in the General population were married according to religious rites or by civil contract. In the Indian population the corresponding percentage is 50.

WORKMEN AND SCHOOLCHILDREN

The number of workers, excluding intellectuals and professionals, is approximately 135,000 of which 52% are agricultural workers.

The main industry of the Island, the sugar industry, gave employment in 1949 to an average of about 4,000 skilled workers and somewhat over 52,400 unskilled workers. Of these unskilled workers, 31,000 were males, 16,400 females and 5,000 juveniles. A seasonal fluctuation of $\pm 15\%$ of the average in employment takes place annually in this industry.

The secondary industries of the Island, of which the more important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from molasses, tea and tobacco manufactures, provide employment for some 3,700 skilled workers, 4,300 unskilled males, 2,000 females and some 1,200 juveniles, while the public services employ about 2,200 skilled workers and 8,500 unskilled men. The total salaried employment in all industries and public services is estimated to make up 10,000 skilled workers, 45,000 unskilled men and some 23,000 women and juveniles.

In July 1949, the estimated number of children in Mauritius between the ages of 5 and 14 (inclusive) was 100,400 and the total number admitted in schools was 49,530. Of these, 45,873 were on the roll of the 138 Primary schools—62 Government and 76 Aided, the latter consisting of 49 Roman Catholic, 17 Church of England, 5 Hindu and 2 Muslim. There were approximately 1,500 children in the preparatory departments of recognised secondary schools and a further 2,157 at registered but non-recognised privately owned schools.

The Dependency of Rodriguez has 4 schools to cater for 1,962 children.

Religious creeds in Mauritius correspond roughly to the classification adopted for dividing up the population. Nearly 98% of the General population are Christians of the Church of Rome or of the Church of England; 77% of the Indians are Hindus, 22% are Mahomedans and the 1% remainder have adopted christianity. The Chinese are almost exclusively Buddhists.

Chapter II : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisations

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents on an average more than 96% of the total value of all exports from the Colony. Thus the sugar industry governs the entire economy of the island, it embraces not only the whole complex of persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugarcane and in the manufacture of sugar and its by-products, those interested in the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product, but also affects very largely the public revenue and those classes of people such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly connected therewith.

Figures concerning employment in the sugar industry are given in the previous chapter in the section dealing with workers. Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bull-dozers, rotary ploughs and tractors and the rocky nature of the soil permit. Because of this latter factor it is unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized. So long as Mauritius grows sugar there will be a place for the hand hoe, cutting knife and sickle.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Other occupations include the aloe fibre (*Furcraea Gigantea*) industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry ; the tea industry, which is at present operating on a comparatively small scale and producing tea for local consumption ; tobacco growing ; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables ; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock upon a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, printing, etc.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers, both in commerce and Government service, and as domestic servants.

Unemployment is not yet a serious problem in the Island though the steady increase in the size of the population gives grounds for concern. There is some seasonal under-employment in the sugar industry which is largely the result of maldistribution of labour. This is in part counteracted by the issue of permits for transportation of labourers by lorry from one part of the island to another. In the other industries unemployment is prevalent among the non-manual workers.

WAGES

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association) were negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers in the electricity supply companies, workers of the artisan category who are members of the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union and the respective employers' organisations. The wages of workers in most other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected in general by the minimum rates payable in the sugar industry because of the element of competition for labour. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak

and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wage Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of bakers and of workers in the printing trade.

WAGE RATES

Wage rates in the sugar and other industries are complicated by subdivision into different categories of work and different categories of worker. Typical minimum rates are:

Sugar Industry

(a) MONTHLY EMPLOYEES

Labourers—Men : Class I	Rs. 30.00 p.m. (Basic rate)
	Rs. 6.00 p.m. (Regularity bonus)
	Rs. 4.50 p.m. (End of crop bonus)
	Rs. 25.50 p.m. (Cost of living bonus)
	Rs. 1.25 p.m. (End of year gratuity)
<hr/>	
Total :	Rs. 67.25 p.m.

Women : Class I

Total : Rs. 44.60 p.m. (Basic rate + bonuses)

Artizans :

Rs. 60 to Rs. 262 p.m.

Overtime, sickness allowance, housing accommodation, paid holidays and annual leave are also provided for.

(b) DAILY WORKERS

Labourers—Men : Class I	Rs. 1.60 per day (Basic rate)
	Rs. 1.36 per day (Cost of living bonus)
<hr/>	
Total :	Rs. 2.96 per day

Women : Class I Rs. 1.48 per day (Including Cost of living bonus)

Artizans :

Rs. 2.60 to Rs. 4.38 per day

Other Industries

Dock Workers :	Rs. 70 to Rs. 140 p.m.
	Rs. 2.35 to Rs. 8.25 per day
Artizans :	Rs. 85 to Rs. 150 p.m.
	Rs. 2.00 to Rs. 6.00 per day
Printing Workers :	Rs. 3.00 to Rs. 5.25 per day
Shop Assistants :	Rs. 60 to Rs. 160 p.m.

HOURS OF WORK

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis the day is 8 hours long, but where employed upon a task or piece-work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., with half an hour's break for lunch. Business offices and most of the shops in Port Louis follow more or less the same time-table.

COST OF LIVING

(a) for Officials

For a government officer whose home is in the United Kingdom the cost of living in Mauritius is somewhat high. House rent tends to rise if the lease is short, and the houses are in no way designed to be labour saving. It is therefore necessary to employ a fairly large staff of servants. Cheap transport is only available during certain hours of the day, so that for shopping expeditions, social obligations and family outings a private motor car is almost essential. Many of the articles for sale in the shops and elsewhere have no fixed price and local inhabitants can buy at a cheaper rate than the foreigner. Most goods have to be imported, so the cost of transport and customs duty is added to the original retail price. A rough-and-ready basis of calculation in buying articles is that the rupee (1/6) equals the shilling. Intestinal diseases are common and drugs and doctors are no cheaper than in England. An English government officer with a wife and one child would have to choose a small house and lead a very quiet life if he wished to live within an income of Rs. 600 per month.

(b) for local workers

The cost-of-living index number, as compiled for agricultural working class families, decreased from 127.7 in January 1949 to 122.1 in December 1949, as compared with the basic rate of 100 for March 1946.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Perhaps the Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the bureau of the Protector of Immigrants, and when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the Labour Law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. The same year an Ordinance legalised the existence of associations in restraint of trade, and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour Ordinance, 1938, provided for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff, in order to "perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred" on him by this Ordinance. The title of *Director of Labour* was later amended to that of *Labour Commissioner*.

The Labour Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner (Trade Unions) are recruited overseas, a second Assistant is recruited locally, and the post of third Assistant is at the moment vacant. The field staff consists of thirteen Labour Officers, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for housing conditions, a statistician, and an officer specialised in accident-prevention when power-driven machinery is used industrially.

Amongst the senior officers, duties are divided functionally, e.g., conciliation, trade union relations, law-enforcement, sufficiency of employment ; but amongst the junior officers, duties are divided territorially, and they are responsible beneath the senior officer to whom they are attached for whatever duties are allotted to them in their particular districts. These district labour officers perform a most important task because, being in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers, they can help the worker to understand and make use of the labour laws, and sometimes to grasp economic laws, though as a rule the man in the Mauritian street prefers to lay the blame for economic difficulties on individuals known to him, rather than on distant and world-wide events.

On the welfare side, the Labour Officers help to administer the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, but are not responsible for any unemployment, sickness or old age insurance schemes. If for some special reason unemployment should reach a point which exhausts all the usual resources available, the Labour Commissioner would advise Government to start some kind of relief work till the crisis is over. This occurred during part of the 1949 intercrop. The Labour Commissioner is also the Public Assistance Commissioner, though the two Departments are separate. In the latter capacity he has the means to do something for those whom misfortune has left destitute. About a million rupees was spent in this way during 1949, but the real social security of the average worker rests on the family. The small size of the island keeps the members of the family in touch with each other, and the working members look after those who are too young or too old to fend for themselves. Children are thus in a way the potential old age pension of the parents, and upon them are expended a good part of the parental earnings ; few parents on reaching old age would be able to support themselves without the contributions of their children, and therefore the more children they have, the less is the burden on each child.

A general lack of employment thus has a very serious effect on the economy of the family, for though many families have other resources besides wage-earning, these other resources are not sufficient by themselves to last for long. Occasional un-

employment can however be met by the family system, though a family with few bread-winners in comparison with the number of old persons or children might find an expensive illness or a weak-minded adult more of a burden than it can bear. In those circumstances Public Assistance must be sought.

The Employment Registration Bureau which was opened at the beginning of 1949 is not equipped to deal with mass unemployment. Its purpose is to put in touch with each other those searching for specific employment and employers seeking workers. Many of those registered as seeking employment are not actually unemployed, but are looking for more congenial work. Although opportunities are limited in Mauritius; it is very much to the interest of Mauritian industry that the employer should have the choice of the best workers available to fill the better paid vacancies.

LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS

Labour has organised itself into 32 Associations or Trade Unions composed of 16 associations of employees, 8 of employers, 5 of Government Servants, and 3 of persons working for themselves. The total membership on the rolls is given as 27,989. Of these the most important workers' organisations are:

	<i>No. shown on roll</i>	<i>No. who have ceased to be members</i>	<i>No. of members on 31.12.49</i>
Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union	6036	3500	2536
General Port and Harbour Workers' Union	1260	300	960
General Workers' Union	(Not yet registered)		
Government Public Works Manual Workers' Union	1800	375	1425
Government Servants and Employees Association	5916	2966	2950
Railway Workers' Union	1073	76	997
Government Teachers' Union	455	—	455
Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association	8276	7022	1254

The more influential employers' organisations are:

	<i>No. of members on 31.12.49</i>
Sugar Producers Association	67
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers	12
Tobacco Producers' Syndicate	51
Planters Association	859

LEGISLATION

The main legislation affecting labour relations is:

The Labour Ordinance	No. 47 of 1938
The Women and Young Persons and Children Ordinance	No. 37 of 1934, No. 16 of 1935 and No. 43 of 1945
The Factories Ordinance	No. 42 of 1946
The Shop Hours Ordinance	No. 3 of 1942, No. 56 of 1945 and 72 of 1946
The Industrial Associations Ordinance ...	No. 7 of 1938
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance ...	No. 13 of 1931, No. 64 of 1947 as variously amended
The Employment Exchange Ordinance ...	No. 67 of 1947
The Trade Disputes Ordinance	No. 68 of 1947
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	No. 41 of 1934
The Apprenticeship Ordinance	No. 13 of 1946
The Recruitment of Workers Ordinance ...	No. 3 of 1938
The Emigration Ordinance	No. 12 of 1933

THE REABSORPTION OFFICE

In common with other countries Mauritius has had to provide machinery for the resettlement in civil life of the thousands of men and women who were on active service during and after the war. A National Service Office, which functioned until the end of June 1948, consisted of two branches—the Reabsorption Office and the Occupational Registration. The latter has now been closed down, but the Reabsorption Office continues to provide a measure of financial assistance to released serving men and women pending their resettlement in civilian occupations. Funds for this purpose are administered by an Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee, and are obtained from the Lotteries (H.M. Forces) Fund, the Earl Haig's Fund and direct government contributions. In addition to financial aid, assistance is given by the provision of tools, bicycles, licences, fishing boats, tuition, apprenticeship fees and free medical attention. The Committee has started, and continues to subsidise, four schemes—an Ex-Servicemen's Home in Port Louis, a fishermen's village in the Black River district, a training farm some miles up-country and a rehabilitation centre attached to the School for the Blind in Port Louis.

The Committee met on 20 occasions in 1949 and examined 2,304 applications for assistance. Of these 1,534 were approved and 770 rejected.

Chapter III : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following tables give a comparison under the main Heads of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1948 and 1949.

REVENUE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939	1948	1949
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	5,902,101	10,221,017	10,967,937
2. Port, Harbour and Light Dues ...	549,500	722,600	941,606
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	6,510,242	18,949,030	24,874,968
4. Fees of Court or Office and payments for specific services ...	851,782	2,390,256	2,360,657
5. Reimbursements	1,446,273	1,335,840	2,175,338
6. Rents	229,220	410,275	358,980
7. Interests	486,474	738,344	757,587
8. Miscellaneous receipts	328,054	927,293	1,040,473
9. Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless ...	370,610	1,290,562	1,136,435
10. Colonial Development Fund ...	15,858	—	—
11. Railways	371,933	73,630	18,485
12. Land Sales	329	—	—
13. Special Revenue	788,462	2,543,008	1,639,427
14. Assistance from Imperial Funds ...	—	254,791	—
TOTAL ...	17,850,838	39,856,646	46,271,893

The only items which call for comment when making a comparison between the 1947-48 and 1948-49 figures are Items 1, 2, 3, 5 and 13. The excess under the first two items is largely due to the steady increase in the import and shipping traffic. The excess under item 3 is mainly due to increases in the consumption of rum and tobacco and in the yield of the Poll Tax and Companies Tax. The increase under item 5 is due to the repayment by the Sugar Industry of the interest on the Sugar Industry Loan (No. 3) unpaid in 1948, and the refund of the first instalment of the Hurricane Loan, 1945, to the Imperial Government. The decrease under item 13 is due to the fact that no refund was made by the Railway Department in respect of advances made in previous years.

EXPENDITURE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939	1948	1949
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	1,938,288	2,430,805
2. Pensions and Gratuities	1,695,428	2,115,358	2,379,501
3. Governor	82,659	108,193	89,630
4. Accountant General	197,112	209,129	183,122
5. Agriculture	542,286	445,435	478,974
6. Audit	79,185	98,155	104,035
7. Central Administration	88,893	328,933	379,311
8. Central Statistical Office	—	35,495	39,790
9. Civil Aviation	—	266,249	225,330
10. Customs and Excise	—	—	529,892
10a. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	1,163,208	—
10b. Development and Welfare	—	1,250,000	—
11. District Administration	—	44,421	67,215
12. Ecclesiastical	211,914	198,653	198,490
13. Education	1,441,412	2,159,688	2,441,858
14. Electricity and Telephones	178,248	1,392,591	1,155,056
15. Fire Services	—	153,552	160,201
16. Forests	203,331	718,621	722,945
17. Granary	79,421	106,700	135,819
18. Harbour and Quays	—	—	961,071
19. Health	1,477,202	3,151,432	3,962,228
20. Judicial	402,390	472,389	490,904
21. Labour	770,307	219,810	230,922
22. Legal	99,564	93,873	97,160
23. Legislature	12,889	177,386	265,111
24. Mauritius Institute (Public Library and Museum)	17,115	48,876	45,842
25. Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force	—	—	28,591
26. Military	935,903	1,050,812	1,084,632
— Municipal	398,317	—	—
27. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	1,169,704	1,076,304
28. Observatory	41,543	57,558	114,961
29. Police	970,903	1,629,593	1,518,484
30. Poll Tax	—	260,625	60,794
31. Posts and Telegraphs	322,521	498,890	545,389
32. Printing Office	107,772	330,751	448,925
33. Prisons and Industrial School	178,741	457,592	477,510
34. Public Assistance	—	1,010,372	982,762
35. Public Works and Surveys	340,007	732,816	784,311
35. Public Works annually recurrent	1,039,379	2,005,313	2,232,771
37. Public Works extraordinary	228,204	532,751	296,631
38. Railways	765,444	1,338,139	1,505,252
39. Registrar General	113,897	142,555	154,414
40. Special Expenditure	6,788,462	838,247	890,223
41. Subventions	—	1,023,333	1,048,193
42. Emergency Services	—	16,672,000	10,475,398
— Harbour	143,755	—	—
— Industrial School	34,298	—	—
43. Development and Welfare	—	2,500,000	2,500,000
TOTAL	24,000,939	49,147,495	44,000,757

In comparing 1947-48 with 1948-49 figures, the following items call for comment:

- Item 1. See Revenue item 5.
- Item 2. The excess is mainly due to the revised rates of cost of living allowance paid to the beneficiaries of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.
- Items 10 and 18. The expenditure under these items were formerly shewn under *Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine*.
- Item 10(b). No contribution was made in 1948-49 to this Head from the General Revenue but a contribution of Rs. 2,500,000 was made from the Surplus Fund to the Development and Welfare Fund. (See item 43).
- Item 13. The excess is due to an increase in the establishment.
- Item 14. The decrease is mainly due to works undertaken for the extension and improvement of the Telephone System not having been completed during the year.
- Item 19. The increase is consequent upon the opening of a new hospital at Rodriguez, the purchase of an additional stock of drugs as a precautionary measure against epidemic and of modern equipment for the sanitary service.
- Item 23. The excess is due to payment of allowances to unofficial members of the Legislative Council.
- Item 30. The decrease is due to the introduction of a procedure whereby all repayments of Poll Tax Revenue are debited to gross receipts.
- Item 32. The increase is due to the printing in England of the Revised Laws of Mauritius.
- Item 36. The excess is mainly due to an increase in the stock of "Unallocated Stores" and the enhanced prices of materials.
- Item 37. The decrease follows the decision to divert the greatest proportion of available labour and materials to the prosecution of works under the Development and Welfare Plan.

Item 38. A reduction in passenger traffic owing to road competition, a gradual increase in the cost of coal and a revision of the bonus rates payable to the personnel, account mainly for the increase under this item.

Item 42 The decrease is mainly accounted for by the reduction in the cost of "Subsidization of Commodities" from Rs. 7,693,452 in 1947-48 to Rs. 1,607,512 in 1948-49 and trading losses.

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1949, was Rs. 48,378,373. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs. 19,670,862. The comparable figures on the 30th June, 1948, were Rs. 43,954,463 and Rs. 19,065,379.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs. 19,300,654 of the Public Debt as detailed below:

	Rs.
Mauritius Loan, 1922	5,000,000
Sugar Industry Loan (No. 3), 1929	3,400,000
Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 1), 1937	1,760,000
Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 2), 1937	1,600,000
Municipal Electric Lighting Loan, 1934	13,000
Mauritius War Loan, 1941	4,000,000
War Savings Certificates	370,154
Mauritius Loan, 1961	3,157,500
TOTAL ...	19,300,654

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

(Omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury):

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs.		Rs.
Other Governments ...	202,385	Advances ...	20,589,797
Deposits... ..	10,831,390	Cash Balance	
Joint Colonial Fund ...	7,053,333	etc.	9,418,125
Mauritius Development		Investments ...	15,192,364
and Welfare Fund ...	3,512,244		24,610,489
Loan Funds unexpended	9,154		
Reserve Fund	12,000,000	DEDUCT :	
General Revenue Balance	7,393,416	Balances of	
		Special	
		Funds, etc. in	
		the hands of	
		Accountant	
		General ...	4,198,364
			20,412,125
TOTAL ...	41,001,922	TOTAL ...	41,001,922

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND THEIR YIELD

	1947-48	1948-49
Customs—Import Duties ...	9,655,577	10,238,149
Customs—Export Duties...	565,444	729,788
Excise Duty on Rum ...	3,052,591	3,406,746
Tobacco Excise ...	3,404,035	3,921,377
Licence Duties ...	2,948,421	3,116,537
Poll Tax ...	3,167,613	4,874,097
Companies Tax ...	3,068,118	5,112,873
Excess Profits Tax ...	177,484	105,545

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The schedule to the Customs Tariff Ordinance comprises three main sections: (i) Import Duties, (ii) Exemptions and (iii) Export Duties. Import Duty is levied under 90 main items, and is calculated on an *ad valorem* or specific basis according to the nature of the article. Provision is made in a number of cases for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods of Empire manufacture, but the admission of goods to preference is dependent on the production of certain supporting evidence as to Empire origin or content. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged. Item 40 imposes a general *ad valorem* duty of 12.5% on all goods not elsewhere specified or not specifically exempted.

The schedule of Exemptions contains 44 items, and covers the majority of articles normally granted free importation into Empire countries.

Export duties are levied on sugar, colonial spirits and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

EXCISE DUTIES

Excise duties are levied on colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (local wine), tobacco, matches, denatured spirit (power and domestic), vinegar, tinctures, drugs and perfumed spirit. The revenue from the production of rum for local consumption has fallen considerably as a result of the Government policy of fixing the maximum quantity available for home consumption at 1,000,000 litres per annum, and there has been as a result, a considerable increase in the duty collected on local wines the production of which has, so far, not been restricted.

STAMP DUTIES

Stamp duties are of three kinds:

Schedule A to the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926, specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of the paper used. The tariff ranges from R. 0.25 to Rs. 1.50.

Schedule B specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from R. 0.05 to Rs. 15.

Schedule C specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include bills of exchange, promissory notes, policies of insurance and debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The stamp duties collected during the financial year 1948-49 amounted to Rs. 451,168.22 in respect of impressed paper. The duties levied by means of adhesive stamps are included in Postal Revenue.

GRADUATED POLL TAX

The graduated poll tax levied in Mauritius is really an income tax and is not a poll tax in the sense in which the term is used for certain African Colonies.

The rate of tax applicable to companies was maintained during 1949 at 35% of the net profit. On individuals the following schedule shows the tax applicable to various incomes:

INCOMES		
<i>in excess of</i>	<i>but not exceeding</i>	<i>tax payable</i>
<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
4,000	5,000	60
5,000	6,000	90
6,000	7,000	120
7,000	8,000	160
8,000	9,000	220
9,000	10,000	280
10,000	11,000	340
11,000	12,000	410
12,000	13,000	490
13,000	14,000	580
14,000	15,000	680
15,000	16,000	800
16,000	17,000	940
17,000	18,000	1,100
18,000	19,000	1,270
19,000	20,000	1,450
20,000	22,500	1,800
22,500	25,000	2,300
25,000	27,500	2,900
27,500	30,000	3,600
30,000	32,500	4,500
32,500	35,000	5,600
35,000	37,500	6,800
37,500	40,000	8,000
40,000	42,500	9,200
42,500	45,000	10,400
45,000	47,500	11,650
47,500	50,000	12,900

For incomes exceeding Rs. 50,000 but not exceeding Rs. 100,000, the tax payable is R. 12,900 plus 50% of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 50,000.

For incomes exceeding Rs. 100,000, the tax payable is Rs. 37,900 plus 60% of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 100,000.

Collections in the year 1948-49 amounted to Rs. 10,092,000.

ESTATE DUTY

Although estate duty is not payable in Mauritius, death duty is payable at a rate dependent upon both the relationship to the deceased and the aggregate value of all property passing at death (Ordinance 47 of 1914 and 21 of 1930).

It is apparent that this combines the principles of legacy, succession and estate duties, the two first duties being leviable according to the degree of relationship without aggregation of the whole estate, and the latter on the aggregate estate irrespective of relationship.

The duty collected during the year 1949 amounted to Rs. 986,760.23.

Chapter IV : Currency and Banking

Notes and silver coins in circulation at the end of the last three financial years were as follows:

				30th June 1947	30th June 1948	30th June 1949
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Notes	...	...	...	26,936,625	28,703,625	29,549,625
Coins	...	...	...	1,890,210	1,723,210	1,677,210
Total				<u>28,826,835</u>	<u>30,426,835</u>	<u>31,226,835</u>

The amount of the Note Security Fund, calculated at the mean market price of the investments on the 30th June, 1949, stood at Rs. 31,959,603, i.e., 111.34% of the value of the notes in circulation.

The Coin Security Fund amounted to Rs. 249,582 at the 30th June, 1949. This, added to the bullion value of the issued and unissued coins amounting to Rs. 2,582,108, gives a total of Rs. 2,831,690 against a face value of silver coins minted of Rs. 3,550,000.

BANKING

Three trading banks, one local and the other two overseas, operate in Mauritius. These are:

- (a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank ;
- (b) The Mercantile Bank of India ;
- (c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

Savings bank facilities are provided for by the Government Savings Bank and by Barclays. Loans to planters are handled by the Government-sponsored Mauritius Agricultural Bank. The present trading bank facilities are adequate for the needs of the island but, apart from the Agricultural Bank and the Co-operative Credit movement, Mauritius is not well served by other financial institutions, more particularly those specialising in long term loans to individuals for such purposes as housing. Loans against mortgages are, of course, obtainable from private sources.

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838. Its paid-up capital was increased in 1948 from Rs. 2,000,000 to Rs. 3,000,000, the latter sum being made of 15,000 shares of Rs. 200 each. Shareholders are liable for a further sum of Rs. 200 per share. The total amount of deposits on the 31st December, 1949, was Rs. 36,040,435 and reserves stood at Rs. 3,230,000. The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd., took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Ltd., on the 31st May, 1916. The total paid up capital is £1,050,000. Deposits made locally on the 31st December, 1949, amounted to Rs. 10,431,598.37.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid up capital of £7,121,500 as at 30th September 1949 and a Reserve Fund of £8,000,000 at the same date.

The total deposits at the local branch of the Bank on 31st December, 1949, amounted to Rs. 17,911,931 on Current Account and Rs. 777,238 on Savings Bank Account.

This Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd., was founded in 1838 and re-incorporated under its present name in 1925 when it amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd., the Colonial Bank and the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December 1919. In February 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned. A new building for their Port Louis branch, which will be the most modern in the Island, is at present in course of construction.

The Bank acts as agents for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts of the Island with a head office in Port Louis.

The total number of depositors at the 30th June, 1949, was 66,820 compared with 62,630 in the preceding year, and the balance to the credit of depositors as at 30th June, 1949, amounted to Rs. 18,713, 884 against which investments are held to the value of Rs. 18,126,290. Interest is paid at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum.

THE MAURITIUS AGRICULTURAL BANK

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank which is now governed by Ordinance No. 11/1944 was established in 1936 and began operations in January 1937. Of the Rs. 10,000,000 originally raised by Government to finance it Rs. 240,000, has been refunded by the Bank which up to 31st December, 1949, had also contributed Rs. 750,560 to a Sinking Fund.

The Bank is entirely self-supporting and its running expenses are low. In 1949 they were 0.35% of the amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers.

The following is a summary of its Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1949.

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Rs.				Rs.			
Treasury ...	...	...	10,192,786	Loans ...	...	...	13,711,619
Bills Payable ...	...	...	3,000,000	Cash ...	...	...	199,530
Internal Accounts and				Investments ...	...	...	17,952
Other Liabilities ...	...	...	106,856	Other Assets ...	...	...	30,592
Sinking Fund ...	...	...	750,560	Sinking Fund ...	...	...	—
Reserve and P. and L. A/c			660,051	Contributions ...	...	...	750,560
TOTAL ...	...	...	14,710,253	TOTAL ...	...	...	14,710,253

Since 1937 the Bank has paid out Rs. 20,223,325 in loans.

In addition to the loans granted under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance the Bank was in 1949 entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance. The total amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers is now Rs. 35,107,560 of which Rs. 13,711,619 are Agricultural Bank loans proper, Rs. 15,953,475 is due by borrowers under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance and Rs. 5,442,463 is due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance.

The number of accounts on 31st December, 1949, was 1,044.

One of the recommendations of the Mauritius Economic Commission was that the Bank's capital should be increased. This has been implemented in part. In 1949 Ordinance 11 of 1944 was amended to empower the Bank to issue short term bills up to a maximum of Rs. 8,000,000. The amount was raised by weekly issues of Rs. 250,000, the first being made on 27th September, 1949.

Proposals regarding the further financing of the Bank and the extension of its activities have been submitted and it is hoped that the legislation concerning them will be passed early in 1950.

Chapter V : Commerce

The commerce of the Colony is almost wholly dependent on the sugar crop which in 1949 reached the record figure of 415,000 metric tons. High degree alcohol, a by-product of sugar, has until recently contributed to the island's income, but in the closing quarter of 1949 exports to the United Kingdom fell off considerably. Nevertheless the total quantity of Colonial Spirits exported in 1949 was also a record, being 5,982,895 litres against 5,232,929 litres exported in 1948—an increase of 749,466 litres.

A small part of the demand for foodstuffs is provided by local production namely meat, fruit and vegetables and there are local industries engaged in the production of local wine, matches and aloe fibre bags for sugar. It is, however, necessary to supply the greater part of the Colony's needs of food, clothing and manufactured goods by imports.

Owing to the world shortage of rice which unfortunately still continues, flour has replaced rice to some extent as the staple food of the population. Flour and other agricultural produce, such as butter, cheese, bacon and mutton, is imported from Australia and there are considerable imports of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa. Beef on the hoof was imported from Madagascar during the year and also several shipments of frozen meat were imported from Australia.

The United Kingdom remains the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods, but large quantities of cotton piece goods are also received from India. Amongst other items worthy of note are gunny bags (for bagging the sugar crop) from India, and fertilizers from South America.

Some indication of the imported food requirements of the Colony may be given by the following figures of the quantities of cereals and pulses handled by the Government Granary during 1949:

<i>Commodity</i>					<i>Tons</i>
Flour	...	...	...	...	38,515.25
Rice	...	...	...	...	29,649.50
Lentils	...	...	...	...	2,061.50
Peas, Beans and Gram	...	...	...	...	1,813.50
TOTAL					<u>71,039.75</u>

The Granary also received about 2,500 tons of locally grown maize products (i.e., maize bran and maize rice) during the year.

The total value of both imports and exports in 1949 showed a marked increase over the previous years. Imports reached the figure of Rs. 153,221,654 and exports Rs. 166,002,646. The corresponding figures for 1948 were Rs. 136,265,540 and Rs. 144,345,359.

The value of rice imports decreased by over two million rupees to Rs. 17,277,358, but flour and other grains increased by over six million rupees to Rs. 20,588,646. Cotton goods, from the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and India, also showed a significant increase, the total value of these imports being Rs. 12,242,999. Other major imports were: manures and fertilizers, Rs. 8,217,859; woollen goods from the United Kingdom, Rs. 2,010,722; coal, coke and manufactured fuel from the United Kingdom and South Africa, Rs. 2,336,911; silk goods from the United Kingdom, Rs. 1,917,219; and tobacco (both manufactured and in leaf) from the U.S.A., U.K. and South Africa, Rs. 793,650.

Sugar, inevitably, accounted for by far the major part of the Colony's exports, the value of the 434,756 metric tons exported to the United Kingdom, Ceylon, Canada and Hong Kong being Rs. 159,016,851. This figure takes into account the enhanced purchase price paid by the Ministry of Food for part of the 1949 sugar exports. Rum exports, exclusively to the United Kingdom reached a total value of Rs. 4,187,677 for the 5,982,395 litres shipped. Aloe fibre of which approximately 211 tons went to the United Kingdom and Belgium, was valued at Rs. 192,359—almost twice the value of the fibre exported in 1948.

Chapter VI : Production

AGRICULTURE

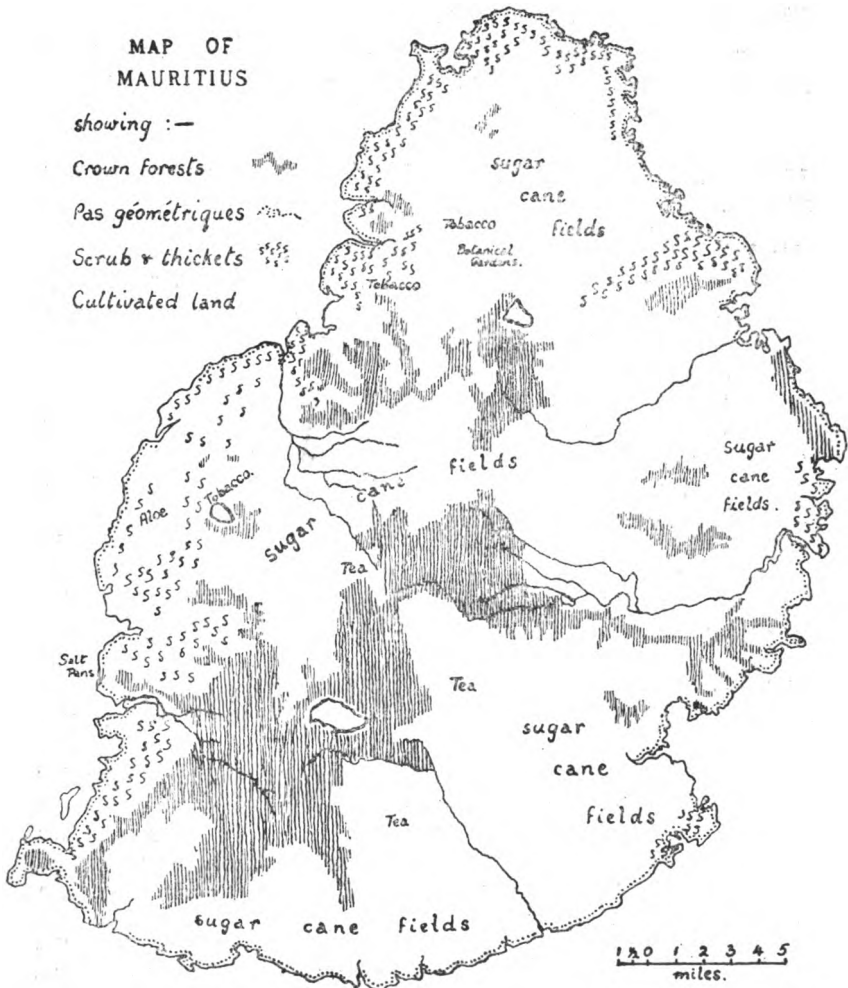
Vital statistics show that the population of Mauritius is constantly increasing. If the measures now in hand to combat malaria are effective, then it may be assumed that the rate of increase of the population will increase still more sharply. It has been stated in previous annual reports that there is in Mauritius no source of wealth other than the soil, the area of which is strictly limited. Such being the case, it is absolutely imperative, if the standard of living is to be maintained or, better still, raised, to put all land to its best use. With this object in view, a Natural Resources Board has been established, its primary object being to plan the most efficient use of land. For this purpose, a Land Utilization Map is necessary, and arrangements have been made for one to be prepared from a series of aerial photographs covering the whole island. This map, when completed, will show the areas now cultivated, those cultivable but not at present cultivated, the areas reserved for forests, etc.

Anti-malarial and other health measures should result in increased efficiency of the individual labourer, and this fact coupled with the increased mechanization of the Sugar Industry particularly will result in a surplus of labour under present conditions. In order to absorb this surplus, it will be necessary to extend the agricultural activities of the Colony, not only in the field of sugar production, but also of other industries. Secondary industries which seem to be capable of considerable extension in the near future are those of Mauritius hemp and of tea.

Sugar

In spite of the fact that from the purely meteorological point of view the year 1949 was far from ideal for sugar production, the yield of sugar topped the 400,000 mark for the first time, the figure reached being 416,000 tons or about 24,000 tons more than the previous record of 1948. This increase is partly, if not mainly, due to the increased area under sugarcane. It is estimated that this area has increased by more than 7,000 acres. These new plantations are in many cases on land which has for many years been covered in scrub, as it was unprofitable to plant cane there prior to the advent of the "King-cane" of Mauritius, the M.134/32. The robust nature of this cane makes it possible to plant it on lands which were, before its propagation, considered as marginal or even sub-marginal. It is very resistant to drought, recovers well, and has a very high rate of growth during periods when weather conditions are favourable.

M.134/32 probably occupies more than 90% of the cane lands of Mauritius. This is not without its dangers, especially in an island which is almost totally dependent on the sugar industry.



No new canes were released for general planting during 1949 but two varieties, M.213/40 and M.423/41, underwent factory tests during the year, and it is hoped that at least one will soon be released. These two varieties have given considerably more sugar per acre than M.134/32 in experimental plots, and if they

maintain this superiority when planted on an extensive scale, the target figure for sugar production in normal years, without the incidence of destructive cyclones, will have to be considerably increased. To hope for an annual production of 500,000 tons in the near future is probably over-optimistic, but a target of over 450,000 tons appears reasonable.

The high output of sugar during 1949 was due to the large quantity of cane produced in the field, as the canes contained somewhat less sugar than in the previous two years. The total area under cane is estimated to be 169,220 acres, of which about 156,000 were harvested, so that the yield of sugar per acre was $2\frac{3}{4}$ tons.

Alcohol

This product continued to be manufactured both for export and for local consumption. The total quantity produced was nearly nine million litres of which over six million was exported. The outlook for this industry is at present rather obscure, and by the end of the year all distilleries had closed down. The reasons for this appear to be two-fold. Firstly, since the sale of petrol has been freed from any restriction, there is no demand for alcohol for use in internal combustion engines. Secondly, there is at present no market for the sale of potable alcohol on the English market and if it were exported as industrial alcohol, a loss would be incurred in its production. As a result of this, less molasses will be required for the distilleries, so that there will be more for distribution to planters for use in their cane plantations.

Tobacco

The area under tobacco was considerably reduced on account of the accumulation of stocks in the Tobacco Warehouse. Permits were consequently issued to 73 growers to plant 222 arpents for flue-curing and to 377 growers for 102 arpents for air-curing. In addition, a small quantity of White Burley tobacco was grown as an experiment. From these plantations, about 198 tons of flue-cured and 72 tons of air-cured tobacco were produced, i.e., a total of 270 tons. The total amount of tobacco sold to the manufacturers during the year was 316 tons, so that the stocks in the Tobacco Warehouse were reduced by some 46 tons during the course of the year. There was more flue-cured tobacco, and less air-cured, produced than was expected. The former was planted early in the year when conditions were favourable, but the latter was planted later in the year, and suffered in consequence from drought conditions during the period August to November.

The flue-cured tobacco produced in the past has been a mixture of Amarello and "New Varieties" in varying proportions, but the decision has now been taken to grow only the "New Varieties" for flue curing during 1950. These varieties include Yellow Mammoth, White Mammoth, Bonanza, Jamaica Wrapper, Virginian Bright.

Samples of tobacco were again sent to England to see whether there is any possibility of Mauritius leaf finding purchasers on the London Market. Reports on the flue-cured leaf were unfavourable, but were variable about White Burley, an air-cured leaf.

Samples of leaf were also sent to Madagascar, and there seems to be a possibility of selling some of our surplus in this country, especially as the result of a visit in December of the *Directeur de Mission Métropolitaine des Tabacs*.

Aloe Fibre

Fibre was produced by 27 estates during the year. Deliveries of fibre to the Government Sack Factory exceeded those of the previous year by a very considerable margin, the quantity received amounting to 1,072 tons of Mauritius hemp and 18 tons of Sisal. In addition, small quantities were allowed to be exported.

Owing to certain difficulties, the Government Sack Factory did not work through the night, but two shifts were worked from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. During the latter period all work had to stop between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., because of shortage of electric power during the peak load period. The factory worked up to the end of the year, and produced 977,750 bags each of 80 kgs. capacity, 63,360 yards of filter press cloth, and 42,600 kgs. of yarn for rope and string manufacture. The quantity of sugar which could be bagged in the locally produced sacks is slightly less than 80,000 tons, approximately one-fifth of the total sugar production for 1949.

The production of an efficient automatic decorticator for the production of aloe fibre has not yet been achieved, although work with this object in view is proceeding both locally and in England, and it is to be hoped that the prototype now being built in England by Messrs. Robey & Sons of Lincoln will soon be ready for trial. With the production of such a machine, the cost of production should be materially lowered, and it is hoped that by the help of bull-dozers and other mechanical means land may be cleared and regular plantations made, leading to a further decrease in cost. An increase in fibre production will necessitate a corresponding increase in the capacity of the Sack Factory. Enquiries are being made with this aim in view.

The fight against one enemy of the fibre producers, namely *Cordia macrostachya*, is being conducted energetically, and there are indications now that this pest will soon be controlled by biological methods.

Food Production

The Food Production Board continued to function throughout the year, but all Government subsidies for foodstuff plantations, and the guaranteed minimum price for groundnuts were stopped as from the 1st July. The guaranteed minimum price for maize was reduced to Rs. 300 per ton at 15% moisture content.

The position in June was that 4,000 arpents of subsidized foodstuffs were under cultivation, of which the most important were manioc and groundnuts. In addition, it was estimated that there were 6,500 arpents of maize, 850 arpents of rice and 950 arpents of potatoes under cultivation. From July onwards, there is no record of plantations, but it has been estimated by the Inspectors of the Food Production Board that approximately the same area is being cultivated in foodstuffs, allowance being made for the seasonal variation in the kind of foods being grown. The land leased to planters by the Board, amounting to some 300 arpents, must be maintained under foodcrops.

It is intended to operate a mechanical unit, comprising one 85 H.P. Diesel Caterpillar tractor, one 35 H.P. Diesel Caterpillar tractor, one Fordson tractor, one Bristol 20 H.P. tractor and three 6 H.P. Ransome tractors, all with the necessary tools to help in clearing land for foodcrop cultivation, etc.

Tea

Probably the most important event of the year was the passing of Ordinance No. 51 of 1949 in December, by the Legislative Council. This Ordinance is designed to permit the extension of the tea industry on sound and economic lines. Its effect has not yet become apparent, but it should become so during 1950.

The area under tea during the year was only slightly increased, and no major improvements were effected to the old factories, although some new machinery has been installed. Local production for the year amounted to over 600,000 lbs. whilst imports were about 35,000 lbs. There is evidence that production is now approximately equal to consumption. A hopeful sign for this industry is that 10,000 lbs. of tea have been sold to the Ministry of Food, and another 16,000 lbs. in South Africa. Larger quantities could probably have been sold in South Africa had stocks been available.

Two plantations have been started by the Department of Agriculture, one at Parc-aux-Cerfs where 10 acres have been planted with seed of Manipuri jat, obtained from Malaya, for the establishment of seed bearers, and the other at Crown Land Wooton where 20 acres have been planted from another consignment of Manipuri seed from Malaya ; the latter plantation is to be run as a commercial plantation.

Some 10-15 maunds of tea seed were collected at Crown Land Montille, an area under old tea, which was cleared last year.

Entomology

Entomological work has continued along two main lines:

- (a) the fight against the major insect pests of the sugarcane ; and
- (b) the fight against Herbe Condé (*Cordia macrostachya*).

As a result of the North African mission some 500 *Dexiormorpha picta* (Meig) and 1,100 *Tiphia morio*, F., were introduced and released. From England about 300 *Dexia rustica* F., were received and released. It is hoped that these insects will help to control one of the major cane pests, *Clemora Smithi*, Arrow.

The Amazon fly, *Metagonistylum minense*, Towns, was received from Trinidad and 203 were released in good condition in the fight against sugarcane borers, the other major cane pest in the Island.

The fight against Herbe Condé (*Cordia macrostachya*) continues, and the prospects now are definitely hopeful. The *Schematiza Cordeæ* Barb., released in 1948, shows great promise. It has definitely established itself in the field. Many patches of Herbe Condé have now been denuded of leaves and inflorescences in different areas, and defoliation in varying degrees is widespread. Should this insect be allowed to work unmolested by local predators or parasites, it should become a powerful agent in helping to clear large areas of this weed.

A seed eating insect, *Eurytoma* sp. has also been released in limited numbers. It has been shown that they will reproduce on the Herbe Condé in Mauritius, but it is not yet known whether it has as yet established itself. Should it do so, this will also be a valuable line of attack, in that it will reduce the propagation rate, thus easing the work of *Schematiza cordeæ*.

The white fly associated with the leaf curl of tobacco mentioned in Chapter VI of the 1948 report has been identified by Dr. R. Takahashi, a Japanese specialist in Tokio, as *Beonisia tabaci*, Lindl., the insect vector for transmitting the leaf curl disease in India.

Animal Husbandry

There has been no apparent increase of milk supplies in 1949. This was to be expected, as it will take time to improve the local breed and to build up a larger cow population. Work is progressing, however, in several directions. A fodder survey has been completed, and in general it has been found that there is sufficient fodder, though there may be seasonal or local shortages. The former may occur during the months of June and July, i.e., after the growing season for grass has ended and before the sugar-crop has started, and again after the end of the sugar crop in November and before the onset of the summer rains in December or January, when the grass starts to grow again. During the sugar crop season, the green cane tops are used as fodder. Local shortages are caused by the keeping of many cows near urban areas where fodder supply is deficient.

The pure bred Friesian bulls introduced by Government are still stationed at outlying stations, where they are performing about 1,000 services per annum, but there are signs that the number of services is falling. There are two reasons for this. Firstly the bulls are getting rather old and very heavy—so heavy in fact that the local cow-keeper is unwilling to bring his small local cow to be served by such large animals. Secondly, half-bred Friesian bulls, belonging to local cow-keepers, are beginning to compete, and being smaller animals, are more favoured by the cow-keepers.

Experiments with hay-making have been planned to remedy the seasonal and local fodder shortages.

The probable destruction of *Cordia macrostachya*, referred to in the section headed Entomology will also be of great value in improving fodder supplies in many places.

An artificial insemination campaign has been started in the south of the Colony, and if this is successful the local breed may be improved much more quickly than by having a number of bulls stationed in different parts of the island.

A stock-breeding station, to rear sheep and goats, has been started on Flat Island, a small island about 10 miles off the north coast of Mauritius. It is too early yet to state what the results of this experiment will be.

Land Tenure

Most of the agricultural land of the Colony is the absolute property of the occupiers who are thus not affected by any land tenure system unless they choose to let their land. The parcelling out of large estates together with the operation of local laws on inheritance has resulted in the distribution of landed property among the population to within extremely small limits. At least half the small planters cultivate areas of less than one arpent and one-third areas of between one and five arpents. It is chiefly to the laws of inheritance that this subdivision of lands must be ascribed.

A bill, introduced in October 1947, to suppress the system of "community of goods" and substitute a complete separation of property held by spouses, was finally placed on the statute books late in 1949. It effects far-reaching changes in the law governing the status and property of married women, and should go far towards removing an important cause of the splitting up of immoveable property in the Island.

Legislative action is still awaited on another weakness in the present land tenure system—the leasing of land by verbal agreement. Given good faith on both sides this arrangement works well but good relations between landlord and tenant may deteriorate at any moment, or an estate may change hands. When this happens, the new landlord is not always willing to take over the unwritten contracts of his predecessor. A simple, inexpensive missive, suited to the needs of a largely illiterate peasantry, would do much to remove the insecurity of tenure arising out of verbal agreements.

LAND SETTLEMENT

The Report by the Land Settlement Officer on "The Possibilities of Land Settlement in Mauritius" has now been considered by a number of bodies in Mauritius and by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The initial scheme of land settlement as approved by the Mauritius Economic Commission, the Development Authority and the Natural Resources Board involved an expenditure of Rs. 750,000. Three model settlements were provided for out of this amount:

- (a) a co-operative small holding settlement (150 acres made up of 20 mixed holdings of 5 acres each and a central farm of 50 acres, to be located on the best land). This settlement would be for demonstrational and educational purposes and, to function satisfactorily, would necessitate special conditions in the way of land, elevation, rainfall and proximity to the Agricultural College.

- (b) a scheme of ten mixed holding (50 acres) averaging 5 acres for intensive production of food crops, including market garden produce, located on first-grade land.
- (c) a scheme of ten dairy holdings (100 acres) averaging ten acres with a proportion of mixed cultivation on land with climatic conditions suitable for development.

In order to obtain the high grade land required for the first two settlements and to furnish some land for mixed cultivation on the dairy settlements, negotiations were entered into with various estates for the purchase of certain selected cane lands. In addition to having known conditions of fertility (a very desirable feature for the first model settlements) the cane land selected had the advantage of being suitable for the immediate establishment of the model settlements. Negotiations with the estates proved unsuccessful and even when the co-operation of the Chamber of Agriculture was obtained no progress was made. It became clear that if lands suitable for the special settlements in the initial scheme had to be acquired compulsorily, considerable resentment would be felt by sugar interests in the island and it was considered that it would be most unfortunate to have the first scheme launched in an atmosphere of controversy.

The alternative is to make use of land already available to Government. But if the initial or pilot scheme is started on Crown Lands, which are either secondary or marginal lands, conditions would be unfavourable for the first two special settlements. An important point to be borne in mind in the economics of land settlement, (as elucidated by the Land Settlement Officer) is that dwelling houses and other buildings of a given standard, water supplies, roads and other amenities cost the same on fertile land as on poor land but that the return from fertile land is much greater. It follows, therefore, that if rents are to show a satisfactory return on capital expenditure the buildings and other amenities must necessarily be of a poorer standard on poorer lands.

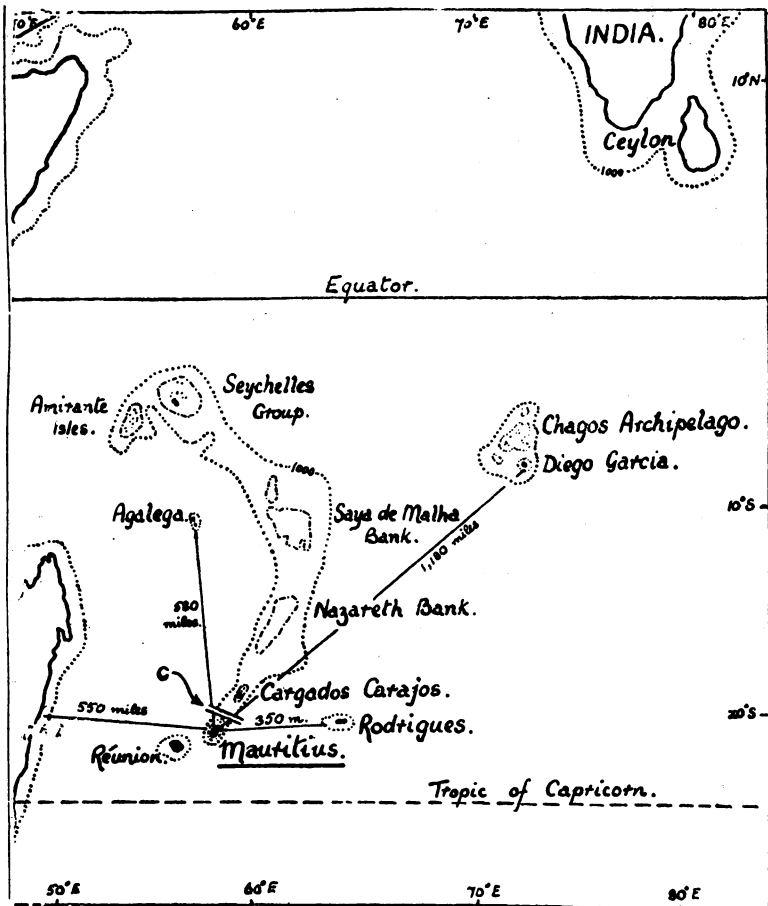
The model settlements proposed may have to be considerably modified if they are relegated to secondary or marginal lands and it is unlikely that the co-operative settlement could be established under conditions where it would serve the purpose of a demonstrational or educational centre.

The Land Settlement Officer has carried out a further review of Crown Lands and of private lands which can be purchased by private negotiation, and an amended pilot scheme which he considers practicable in the new circumstances was submitted in December and is now being considered by Government.

FISHERIES

The survey by Drs. Wheeler and Ommaney of the fishing grounds on the banks between Mauritius and Seychelles has been completed, and Research Ship No. 1 has now left these waters for Zanzibar. Although the final report of this survey has not yet been received, it is understood that prospects for fishing on the banks are very favourable.

Dr. C. F. Hickling, Fisheries Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the Colony in July, and recommended certain steps to improve deep sea fishing in local waters.



The Indian Ocean Trading Company's first fishing vessel the "Silverlord," has left England before the end of 1949 and is expected to reach Mauritius towards the end of January, 1950.

This ship is a vessel of about 1,100 tons gross, with a cruising speed of 10-12 knots. It has been specially equipped for fishing on the banks, and is fitted with modern refrigerating equipment. The "Silverlord" will operate mainly on the Nazareth and other banks between Mauritius and Seychelles. The position of these banks is shown on the map in this section. The Government of Mauritius has made two loans towards purchasing and equipping the "Silverlord," the first of £37,500 and the second of £35,000.

The Fisheries Branch has now become a division of the Department of Agriculture, and its main duties may be classified as follows:

- (a) Control of fishing in accordance with the provisions of the Fisheries Ordinance (No. 7 of 1948) ;
- (b) Bio-metric studies on local fish and the systematic study of local species ;
- (c) Collection of statistics.

Up to the end of September 1949, this division was also responsible for the control of distribution and marketing of fish. The sale of fish was then decontrolled.

The catch during 1949 was very irregular, and was adversely affected by a number of small cyclones in the South Indian Ocean during February and by the early onset of the S.E. trade winds in April. The total catch amounted to approximately 2,000 tons about 100 tons short of the average.

FORESTRY

There was a marked decline in the local production of timber during the year under review and a smaller increase in the volume of timber imports, and it is believed this tendency will continue to be apparent for several years to come. Preliminary surveys of the remaining local resources in mature timber indicate the need for a carefully planned reduction in output, but until all stocks of dead and fallen, and of cyclone-damaged crops are harvested output is not likely to decline to an extent which might gravely affect local consumption.

Timber production from Crown Forest and other Crown Lands is organised by the Forest Department, that from 'Pas Géométriques' lands by the lessees of such lands, and that from privately owned forested lands by the owners. All forest produce deriving from the above sources is consumed in the Colony. It totalled 455,600 cubic feet this year, and was valued at Rs. 543,739.

The exploitation of forest produce from Crown Lands is carried out by labour employed on piece work rates under the direct supervision of the Forest Department. Though the use of the saw in felling and logging operations has now been successfully introduced, the axe alone remains the popular implement and heavy waste in exploitation operations continues. It is gravely aggravated by the fact that all timber must be manhandled from stump to lorry-road side, and this situation must continue until some mechanical means of extraction is introduced. Attempts to encourage the employment of draught animals—bullocks—for extraction, have been a complete failure. As the result of paying enhanced rates, the length of the 'average' log has been increased and an appreciably higher output of logs from 10'-12' in length has now been achieved. All round and hewn timber extracted from the forest is converted at five sawmills, two of which are owned and operated by the Forest Department, and the others privately owned.

All silvicultural work in Crown forests is done by daily paid labour employed under the direct supervision of Forest Officers. The comparatively high wages paid to such labour results in high formation costs for all artificially raised plantations, the average cost being not less than approximately Rs. 150 per acre.

Timber Production.

During 1949 timber production from Crown forests was 228,985 cubic feet. Imports of timber amounted to 477,000 cubic feet, and production from privately owned or leased lands is estimated at some 226,625 cubic feet. Crown forest lands also yielded an estimated 18,840 cords of firewood, equivalent to a volume of 1,507,200 stacked cubic feet. In addition, 15,128 bags of charcoal, each of 60 lbs. weight, were produced.

Labour Supply

For many years past the majority of sawyers and woodcutters employed by the department have been "Creoles," while the labourers employed on silvicultural operations have been predominantly Indians. The tendency reported last year for Indians to enter the ranks of sawyers and woodcutters has continued, and approximately half the labour now employed on these operations is Indian. There has been no alteration in the situation as regards labour employed on silvicultural operations.

Although it conducts large scale fuel cutting operations itself, the department also sells standing fuel crops by tender, owing to periodical labour shortages particularly of labour residing within

close proximity to the forests. This system permits commercial dealers in fuel to operate satisfactorily and the whole of the forest department's production is sold to individual consumers and small traders, bakeries, etc.

Forest Policy

The memorandum on Forestry in Mauritius, prepared by the Forest Board and submitted to Government in January 1949, has now received the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and a White Paper embodying proposals for future policy was in preparation at the close of the year. This White Paper should be ready for submission to Government by the end of February 1950.

Cyclones

No major cyclones occurred during the year. Pine crops suffered some damage in January 1949 from the heavy winds caused by a cyclone which travelled at a considerable distance to the north of the island, and it is clearly apparent that this species of tree is far too vulnerable for extended cultivation. Any heavy winds which crops of up to ten years of age may experience are likely to break the tops of a very high percentage of the trees. The harvesting of trees badly damaged or blown down by the cyclones of 1941 and 1945 continues to provide the greater part of the timber produced during the year and it is estimated that supplies for another four to five years at least remain to be harvested. As is to be anticipated in such cases, the timber is partly defective and the percentage of waste is higher than that which would occur in the case of timber from standing crops.

Protection

The "National Reserves"—some 5,000 acres of good quality high indigenous forest set aside for permanent protection—received attention, and two new sample plots (each of one acre) were laid down to investigate the possibility of controlling the growth of exotic species which have succeeded in establishing themselves.

The egg parasite (*Anaphoidea nitens gir*) of the Eucalyptus pest *Gonipterus Scutellatus* has extended its degree of control over the pest, and in the course of the year no major infestations on Eucalyptus occurred.

Investigations into the possibility of inducing the partial seasoning of Eucalyptus timber by means of "girdling" the trees have been discontinued for the present, owing to the inability of the Agricultural Department to release an entomologist for the

whole-time study of the life history and behaviour of *Phoracantha semipunctata* F which was discovered in 1948 to be a serious pest in Eucalyptus timber. Girdling operations carried out in widely separate localities in the island have shown that the beetle attacks dying trees at all seasons and at all elevations, and that attacks are, as a rule, severe.

Management

Detailed plans for the management of the Crown forest estate will be prepared when the forest policy of the Government is declared. A start has been made with the collection of the statistical information upon which such plans must be based, but the absence of adequate trained personnel renders the completion of this preliminary work a formidable task.

In co-operation with the Food Production Board agricultural crops are raised in timber plantations under the well known "taungya" system. The depredations of wild deer and monkeys in the Crown forest lands at higher elevations, however, restrict 'taungya' operations to the low levels where the extent of Crown lands is small. The annual acreage available for replanting does not exceed a hundred acres.

The improvement of privately owned riverine forests as part of the island's anti-malaria schemes continued to receive the attention of the Department, and solid progress was made with the replanting of stream banks denuded of tree growth.

In the course of the year 6,185 acres of Crown forest lands were earmarked for the extension of tea cultivation. Of this area approximately 104 acres has already been made available for an experimental project; one third of which was cleared at the close of the year.

A total of 394 acres of new plantations was made during the year, the principal species used being Pine, Eucalyptus, Juniper, and Araucaria. Nurseries have been considerably extended and improved, and it is hoped to increase the acreage of new plantations in 1950. As regards 'new' species the success hitherto achieved with *Chlorophora tinctoria* is most promising, and 'root and shoot' cuttings of Teak (*Tectona grandis*) have done very well. As indicated in last year's report every attempt is being made to extend the cultivation of Araucaria spp: at the expense of Pine, and good progress has been made.

INDUSTRY

The centralization and modernization of the sugar factories has proceeded steadily during the period under review. Yet another factory was closed down, bringing the number which handled the biggest crop on record down to 29.

In addition to those sugar factories—and to the average Mauritian the word 'factory' automatically implies sugar factory—there are five tea factories, nine manufacturing wine from imported raisins and local fruits, eleven distilleries (see the section headed "Alcohol" in the beginning of this chapter), two cigarette factories and two match factories. Towards the end of 1949 the British American Tobacco Company (Mauritius) Ltd., began the construction of a new tobacco factory on the northern outskirts of Port Louis.

There are two iron foundaries and a small shipbuilding and repair yard. The loading and unloading of ships in the harbour is carried out speedily and efficiently by two docks-operating companies.

Stoppages during 1949

Five stoppages of work occurred each involving more than 10 persons, and all were settled by the machinery of conciliation.

The industries affected by the stoppages were:

Sugar (two), Leather (one), Wine (one), Railway and Road Transport (one).

The stoppage in the Road and Railway Transport Services involved 875 work people and was caused by an excess of enthusiasm for strike action on the part of a majority of members at a general meeting convened to discuss the result of negotiations then proceeding between Government, the Railway Workers' Union and The Bus Owners' Union. The Railway Union Executive Committee were overruled in their decision to continue negotiations and a one-day notice of strike action was issued resulting in Road and Rail services being interrupted for a period of 2 days. Following the intervention of the Labour Department, a promise was obtained from both Unions on the second day to resume work immediately provided that Government would agree to a resumption of the negotiations which had ceased on the issue of the strike threat. Government agreed to recommence discussions and full railway and road services were re-established on the third day.

The four (unofficial) stoppages in other industries involved very small numbers of work people and were of short duration, the workers concerned resuming work at the request of the Conciliation Department to permit the commencement of negotiations between the Unions and the employers concerned.

The marked inclination towards peaceful settlement of differences arising during 1949 appears to be to some extent indicative of a new outlook towards joint industrial problems and towards an understanding that all questions, however serious, may be resolved amicably when approached in a spirit of goodwill and friendliness.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

New registrations during 1949 totalled 40 and were as follows:

- 7 Co-operative Credit Societies of Unlimited Liability ;
- 27 Co-operative Thrift and Savings Societies, Limited ;
- 5 Co-operative Stores Societies, Limited ;
- 1 Co-operative Wholesale Society, Limited.

Credit Societies

(a) *Unlimited Liability.* At the end of December 1949, the number of Co-operative Credit Societies of the Unlimited Liability type in active operation in Mauritius was 96 and in Rodriguez 20, making a grand total of 116. In general there has been a marked increase in membership, more active working and a maintenance of a good standard of recovery.

It may be pointed out that the existence—and operations—of the Co-operative Central Bank set up in 1948 has created a very much more vigorous demand than hitherto for loans amongst the members of the credit societies. A form of entanglement—previously rare—has appeared in the form of demands for loans on account of land purchase. In fact a brake became essential and such engagements, when granted, were made repayable at the 1949 crop.

As a safeguard against the over-financing of societies by the Central Bank, steps have been taken for the maintenance of accurate property statements of members of societies, including a record of their normal credit appraised with due consideration of their repaying capacity. Arrangements have also been made to have the statements examined and revised by a responsible departmental officer and thereby to ensure greater control over the issue of loans to members.

The societies have continued to sell the crops of sugarcane, leaf tobacco and maize of their members collectively. Through the medium of their societies members have succeeded in raising the average weight of sugar per ton of cane from 70.25 kilograms in 1943 to 77.684 kilograms in 1948.

It is satisfying to observe that slowly and surely a number of individual members of co-operative credit societies who previously were unable to secure their somewhat large loan requirements from their society, are forsaking capitalistic sources.

(b) *Limited Liability.* As in the previous year, credit societies of the Limited Liability type comprised two fishermen societies only, one in Rodriguez and the other at Bambous Virieux in the District of Grand Port, Mauritius.

The fishermen of this Island, infinitely more than any other community, are enmeshed in the octopus grip of the middlemen who see to it that a united front is presented to any co-operative interference. Furthermore, fishermen are as a class largely inclined to be improvident and invariably thirsty—thus becoming the natural prey of the middlemen. Under existing conditions, little can be done by the co-operator in this field. But for the last seven years much energy and persuasion have been expended by the Department of Co-operation in an effort to overcome these difficulties.

Government loans amounting to Rs. 18,000 were made to three co-operative credit societies not engaged in sugarcane cultivation ; while repayments of Rs. 121,230 were effected to the Treasury by the other societies during the year. At the end of December 1949, excepting the 20 societies in Rodriguez which held Government advances aggregating Rs. 14,040—only five societies engaged in cultivation other than sugarcane in Mauritius retained such loan money, amounting to Rs. 29,460.

The rates of interest on loans which the co-operative credit societies charge their members have—thanks to the Central Bank—been reduced materially. The rate of interest on loans from the Central Bank to its member societies was 5%. The rate charged by such societies to their members, which varies from 5 to 8% was, on an average, 6.958% ; in 1948 it averaged 7.92%. In the case of the Rodriguez societies the rate varied from 6 to 10% and averaged 9.57%.

Thrift and Savings Societies

By the end of December 1949, the number of Thrift and Savings Co-operative Societies in operation was 36, all of them situated in the rural districts. The total amount deposited by them with the Central Bank at the close of the period under review stood at Rs. 55,645.

In these societies members deposit small savings which can be withdrawn for specific purposes. Regular savings are encouraged.

These societies should not be judged solely by their financial transactions. Their members get their first lesson in thrift and their first experience of joint action on co-operative lines. Through them advice on various common problems can be easily disseminated.

Marketing Societies

The marketing activities of sugarcane and of maize are arranged through the co-operative credit societies.

A start of marketing societies proper has been made by the ginger growers. By the end of December 1948, there were 2 Ginger Marketing Societies on the register, of which one, the Port Louis Ginger Marketing Society, Limited, had not started operation. That society was deregistered in November 1949, whilst the other one, the Crève Coeur Marketing Society, Limited, despite most careful 'nursing' by the Department of Co-operation has not proved successful owing to the disloyalty of its members (280 in number) and their insistence on overproduction. However, owing to the activities of this Society the export price of ginger has been raised from Rs. 6—Rs. 10 to Rs. 18 per hundred kilograms.

The creation of Co-operative Milk Marketing Societies has received considerable attention but has not, as yet, accomplished any great success.

Central Bank

At the close of 1949 the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank, Limited, comprised 97 member societies (89 co-operative credit societies of the unlimited liability and 8 co-operative stores societies limited) and its paid up share capital amounted to Rs. 19,800. To meet the loan requirement to its members during the year an agreement was entered into with Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) for a floating overdraft up to Rs. 1,000,000 at 4%, security being, of course, represented by the unlimited liability of member societies plus the usual undertaking of promotes safeguarding the sale of members' sugar.

Up to 31st December, 1949, loans totalling Rs. 1,003,504 had been made to member societies on account of the 1949 crops of sugar, tobacco, tea and vegetables. All of this, with the exception of a small carryover of Rs. 21,210 for virgin cane cultivation to be reaped at the 1950 crop, had been repaid prior to the close of the period under review.

A fresh arrangement has been entered into with Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) for the 1950 crop, for a fluctuating overdraft up to Rs. 1,500,000. As at the 31st December, 1949, the sum overdrawn thereon stood at Rs. 626,775.

Arrangements have also been completed for the purchase of the chemical fertilizer requirements of co-operative credit societies through the agency of the Central Bank. A discount of Rs. 5 per ton will thus be received and it is calculated that the working capital of this organisation will thus be augmented by some Rs. 7,500 annually.

No co-operative stores society transacted business with the Central Bank during the year.

The secretary of the Central Bank completed successfully the various preliminaries (including an examination) which led to his appointment as a Sworn Broker and has therefore been in a position to sell the 1949 sugar crop of member societies.

Consumers Societies

Consumer societies were a focus of keen interest during the year but the delay and uncertainty of introducing the necessary legislation to enable them to sell to their members the various forms of alcohol free of licence duty slowed down the progress to an appreciable extent.

By the end of December 1948, eighty-one co-operative stores were on the register, of which 55 were in active operation. During 1949 only five new stores were registered; whilst nine were deregistered because of difficulties experienced in one way or another, such as inability to find suitable premises or to enlist a sufficient number of shareholders. Four were dissolved owing to the fact that their members had lost their early enthusiasm. Thus, at the end of December 1949, the number of stores on the register was 73, of which 63 were operating and 10 had not yet made a start. The yearly turnover of these 63 stores in active operation with a membership of 7,512 was Rs. 3,265,400.

This is a satisfactory record from the point of view of growth, but with regard to the quantity and quality of business as well as general administration there is room for improvement. The

financial position is, in general, sound but without the constant watchfulness of the Department of Co-operation a larger number than 4 of the institutions in operation would have fallen. This form of Co-operation is the hardest of all.

One small co-operative store was found to be dealing with the main stumbling block—credit—by means of a private subscription list amongst its more affluent members. The money collected was being used for supplying credit in genuine cases of inability to pay cash. This principle was taken up by the Department of Co-operation and a scheme on these lines recommended to all co-operative stores. It has not banished the credit problem but in some cases it has proved to be of assistance.

Second in importance comes the question of the sale of alcohol. Twenty-four stores pay the Rs. 100 quarterly licence for the sale of local wine and imported alcoholic beverages ; a few of them cover their costs, but the majority of them find it a precarious business. No rum can be sold in any co-operative store. In May 1949, a motion debated in Legislative Council to the effect that the co-operative stores should be permitted to sell rum and wine without paying a licence was approved by majority vote. It is understood that legislation has been prepared in support of this motion.

Another feature of consumer stores is that in quite a number of cases they are a 'one man show.' This is all very well as long as that one man keeps 'on the rails.' But such a position is full of temptations which are not always resisted.

Only in 5 cases was the net annual profit distributed as bonus to members. The vast majority very wisely agreed to devote such sums (after having credited the statutory 25% to the Reserve Fund) to the purchase of shares and the institution of a Share Transfer Fund. In two cases only dividend on shares was paid.

The derationing of most foodstuffs is now taking place and, in consequence, members are freed from the necessity (should they wish to be disloyal) of purchasing from the store where their ration cards previously rested. It had been freely prophesied that derationing would put an end to co-operative stores. Such has not been the case. Admittedly, it is a severe testing period but, so far, only a slight drop in sales has taken place. These stores have come to stay. Not only are these organisations giving their members a square deal but they are producing better citizens—men and women freed from credit and imbued with the co-operative spirit.

A Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited with co-operative stores as its members was registered in October 1949. It had not started operating by the end of December. Its main object is to facilitate the operations of member societies by obtaining and supplying to them everything that a co-operative store society needs.

Education and Propaganda

The training of co-operative society staff is still undertaken through direct individual instruction by officers of the Department in the ordinary course of their work. To keep up-to-date the knowledge of Inspectors, co-operative publications and other books were purchased during the year and a co-operative Library is being set up.

Local

Under the provisions of the Rules every member of a co-operative credit society holding immovable property, for the upkeep or cultivation of which he requires a loan from the society, has to produce the title deeds establishing his rights as owner or lessee for record in the register kept by the society. A member of one co-operative credit society attempted to obtain a loan from his society by producing a false document under the forged signature of a Public Notary. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

Eight co-operative societies were visited during November by the Governor who was eager to see for himself the progress of the co-operative movement in this Colony.

Chapter VII : Social Services

EDUCATION

With the growing conviction of the general public that the training of every child into a good citizen is, in co-operation with the parent and the priest, the direct responsibility of the state, the functions of an education department are ever-increasing in extent and number. Mauritius is no exception and the year 1949 has seen big advances on certain parts of the educational front, preparation for advance in other sectors and, paradoxically, a somewhat static area where Development and Welfare is concerned.

Secondary Education

The big advance has been in the sphere of salary revision for Education Officers. Before 1946 teachers at the Royal College and the Royal College School, the offshoot in Port Louis, were designated Masters and Assistant Masters, while the Training College staff were called Tutors. In 1946 the title "Education Officer" was introduced. Masters and Tutors were placed in Grade I, Inspectors of Primary Schools in Grade II and Assistant Masters in Grade III.

Early in 1949 scales were substantially improved but still with separate grades. Shortly after, a new single-grade scale was drawn up and it is this which has been finally accepted by Legislative Council and approved in principle by the Secretary of State.

This emphasis on salaries may appear to the reader to be rather dull and technical but it does in fact represent an important advance educationally and socially. Not only has it been found possible to require a university degree as a minimum qualification, but the new scale eliminates the grade barrier and opens the way to a spirit of unity among the staff.

Among other recommendations of the Nichols' Report on Secondary Education which have already been implemented, are arrangements for sending promising Teaching Assistants overseas to obtain qualifications after a 2 year period of probation in Mauritius, the increase in the number of scholarships from primary to secondary schools from 20 to 30 for boys and 10 to 15 for girls, and the appointment of a Rector of the Royal College with a degree in history rather than in classics.

The Supervisor of Secondary Schools, a new appointment, has been at work elaborating a salary scale for teachers in the "approved" (recognized and grant-aided) secondary schools. Three more schools have been approved—the last of the five Loreto Convents, St. Esprit College for boys (Roman Catholic) and St. Andrew's School (coeducational) (Church of England). There are now some 2,000 boys and girls over 11 years of age receiving secondary education in the Government and Approved schools and with the starting of the Girls' Secondary School which will open as soon as a Headmistress has been selected, Mauritius can cater for all those who have the mental abilities to profit by post-primary academic education. Educationally speaking, the more genuine secondary education we have the better, but this means good staff and adequate buildings and equipment, both very costly.

Most of the secondary schools which are run for the financial advantage of the proprietor are of little value to the community. Boys and girls in cramped quarters wage a weary battle with the School Certificate Syllabus, spurred on by underpaid and ill-qualified teachers. It may be that Government should bring some measure of control to bear on schools of this sort.

Technical Education

The question of providing technical education is constantly being put forward. So far nothing exists beyond the provision of 8 annual Scholarships enabling boys with a VIth standard primary school qualification to follow a 5-year course at the Railway Workshops with one whole day's theoretical instruction a week at the Royal College School. One of the main obstacles to any attempt at extension is the objection of senior artisans to revealing their skill to youngsters outside their family circle.

Primary Education

With a school population of 100,000 between 5 and 14 years of age the present provision for some 50,000 in Government, aided and private primary schools leaves a large number uncatered for. Many of these children have in fact left school early to help in the home or to earn a few extra rupees for the family and would not enter school again ; but head teachers are besieged on all sides by parents eager to send to school their 5 year-olds who have inevitably to be refused admission.

A big building plan was due for execution under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme last year but has been held up while the new Legislative Council examined the recommendations. There is now, however, every likelihood that provision will be made for the building of a number of small schools of an inexpensive and somewhat unpermanent type which will relieve the pressure in the lower standards. In urban areas larger and more solid structures will be erected.

In 1950 all school-children will receive daily a cup of full-cream powder milk. The scheme is estimated to cost at least half a million rupees.

The teachers, too, are receiving a welcome addition to their menu in the shape of 2½ years' back pay in respect of the revised salaries which will shortly come into force, giving them an all-round increase of from 20% to 30%. The scale for Head Teachers and Inspectors has also been greatly improved. Pensions for Aided School-teachers are likely to be introduced shortly.

Training College

It has not been possible to proceed with the project for building a Residential Training College at Côte d'Or as public opinion seems unready at present to support such a proposal.

Sixty students were fully trained (5 terms) in 1949, ninety will be trained in 1950 and 120 in 1951. These recruits will ease existing shortage of staff and allow for the staffing of new schools. As from 1952, 90 can be trained each year—always provided the necessary tutorial staff and extra accommodation is forthcoming. With the new salary scale there is a better hope of attracting men and women capable of inspiring our future teachers in their great task.

College life has not flagged in spite of shortage of staff. During the poliomyelitis epidemic discussion groups and lectures on the teaching of geography and arithmetic were given to Head Teachers, and Tutors helped in a group of six short courses to teachers in Secondary Schools. They have also trained the teachers who are staffing the new Handiwork and Domestic Science Centre at Port Louis and have given tuition in Machine Drawing, Science and Mathematics to the Railway apprentices. The students have been active on the college farm, in youth work, dramatics and especially athletics. The first sports day was held in glorious weather on the Prison's Sports ground at Beau Bassin. Both girl and men students performed with a good level of skill and a high standard of sportsmanship was maintained throughout.

Early in the year the tutor for Indian students arrived. One of his main tasks has been to report on the teaching of Hindi in the Primary Schools. At present 48 out of the 138 primary schools hold classes in Hindi, chiefly out of school hours. The teaching is of indifferent quality, due partly to overcrowding and also to the fact that discipline is difficult to maintain in lessons out of school hours. An attempt will be made to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs but it is questionable how far matters can be improved as long as the lessons are not included in the curriculum. This might be done in schools where Hindi is the "home" language of the majority of the pupils but it would necessitate the exclusion of French as a School subject. Such a course of action could not, of course, apply to Secondary schools where all should study French for cultural and vocational reasons and where Oriental languages when taught must remain optional. Gradually, students will be sent out from the Training College who can teach Hindi as well as the other basic subjects and the quality of the teaching of this language will then improve in the primary schools.

Youth Organization

The central purpose of youth work in Mauritius is to give boys and girls, especially those in urban areas who have left their primary school or have never been to school at all, an opportunity to get a firmer hold on life through the activities of a club. Many are without regular employment and the club is the only alternative to a vicious ganglife of gambling and drinking. Its main business is with the very poorest and it aims particularly at touching the lives of those who are left outside other youth organizations. To establish real live clubs is no easy matter. It depends on the training of leaders and on the willingness of Mauritians to help, not so much with their money but with their time, in giving courses of instruction which are likely to interest the members.

There are now some 35 clubs for boys and 10 for girls, some of which have taken firm root. A hundred young men attended Residential Training Courses of a week at the seaside camp at Canonnières' Point, and some of them helped to give an unforgettable week to more than 1,000 children from primary schools, orphanages and the Blind School. Next year an additional camp will be available particularly for adolescents, and there are plans for a Youth Hostel.

Further Education

Post-secondary school studies, except for the few brave souls who struggle with the external degree courses of London University, are followed principally in the United Kingdom where at present there are no less than 150 Government and private students taking a variety of courses, chiefly medicine, dentistry and law. In 1950 it is proposed to start extension classes in Science subjects at the Royal College with a view to helping candidates for 1st M.B. and pharmacy examinations.

Text Books

Books especially written or adapted for use in the schools of Mauritius already include the Oxford English Course, a Geography and a substantial History of Mauritius. In 1950 there will also be an Arithmetic Course for Primary Schools. The first of a special series for more popular local consumption came out in January 1949, under the title of "Current English" and received recognition in the third leader of "The Times."

Visual Education and Radio

While the Mobile cinema tours the primary schools in rural areas with films which instruct and entertain, the Visual Education Officer deals similarly with those in urban areas and the secondary schools. Six secondary schools have their own film strip projector and make good use of the 400 strips in the library at Headquarters. There are 3 film projectors and 12 schools have been provided with radio sets and gramophone pick-ups. It remains now to provide a really useful programme for Secondary Schools and when there is a likelihood of good receiving conditions and adequate sets, it should be possible to do the same for the Primary Schools.

The Dependencies

In Rodriguez there are four primary schools catering for some 1,800 children. Teachers are receiving training at the Training College in Mauritius with good results. The Youth Organiser visited the island at the end of the year and reported that the children looked robust and healthy but, owing to distances and home duties, school attendance was irregular. Many who have left school can find no employment and youth organizations are an urgent need. It has been decided to send some sports equipment and books on camping and youth leadership to be followed later by the visit of an experienced leader. In the Chagos Archipelago there are at present no schools. A Committee is to investigate the possibility of providing in the larger centres some form of schooling suited to the needs of the island.

HEALTH

Inability to recruit medical officers, and particularly medical officers of health, continues to prevent any marked development of sanitary or social health services. Despite this, the effect of efforts in recent years to reduce malaria by antimalarial measures, recently reinforced by the use of insecticides, have resulted in a dramatic lowering of morbidity and mortality due to this disease. The result of more efficient sanitary services, elementary though they be, are reflected in a reduction of intestinal diseases such as typhoid fever and dysentery.

Building programme

The construction of new wards at the Civil and Victoria Hospitals is proceeding but unfortunately work has not yet begun on the orthopaedic and rehabilitation centres, and this branch continues to operate in huts at Floréal.

Clinics

The dental clinic for school children in Port Louis has proved to be a most popular institution, so much so that even during school holidays a considerable number of children continue to attend.

Ante-natal and child welfare work is carried out at 10 centres by the Maternity and Child Welfare Society. In addition there are five ante-natal clinics under Government auspices. Eye and orthopaedic clinics are conducted at Civil, Victoria and Moka Hospitals.

The medical services comprise two general and six district hospitals with a total of 1,135 beds, including 85 cots and 85 beds for obstetric cases. In addition, there is an orthopaedic hospital (in temporary buildings), a mental and leper hospital. There are 32 district dispensaries and two mobile units.

Training of Personnel

Two medical officers are at present undergoing courses in radiology and anaesthesia in the United Kingdom.

There are two teaching schools for nurses in Mauritius at the Civil and Victoria Hospitals. The period of training is three years. There are also centres for the training of midwives. Some Mauritians are at present in Empire hospitals training for the certificate of State Registered Nurse.

The course for Sanitary Inspectors, the syllabus of which is based on that of the Royal Sanitary Institute, comprises eighteen months of theoretical teaching and practical work in the field. Nine students obtained the certificate in 1948 and there are five others at present in training.

Anti-malarial measures

Permanent works of canalising rivers and draining marshes are nearing completion in Plaines Wilhems, Moka, Pamplémousses and Port Louis, and maintenance works have been carried on in other districts.

In Plaines Wilhems most of the marshy spots in Curepipe have been drained and a canal 8,000 feet long, dug to drain away stagnant water from Beau Bassin, is nearing completion.

All the small streams and feeders in the densely populated north-west and centre of Moka district have been canalised.

South-west of the capital, the canalisation of St. Louis river, the filling of salt pans and the carrying out of maintenance works have almost cleared Cassis of malaria. The canalisation of Latanier river—well known as a heavy breeding place for *gambiae*—has resulted in a marked diminution of malaria in the suburbs of Sainte Croix and Roche Bois. The principal achievement of the year has been the draining and filling in of Beau Plan marsh in Pamplémousses. This involved the clearing of 50 acres, on which sugar cane is now growing, eucalyptus trees have been planted and a football ground for estate workers prepared.

To the striking success of these measures has now been added the dramatic results of attack on the vectors of malaria throughout the Colony by means of spraying internal surfaces of buildings with insecticides.

On 9th November, 1948, a Research Team appointed by the Colonial Insecticides Committee arrived in Mauritius to direct the campaign against malaria, and to interpret the results of the experiment. This team was under the direction of an Officer in Charge, Dr. M. A. C. Dowling, and comprised a Chemist, an Entomologist and six Field Officers. For the purposes of the campaign, the island was divided into six districts, and one Field Officer was put in control of the spraying in each district. The first two months were spent in collecting sufficient experimental data to establish a suitable control for future interpretation of results, and in setting up an organization in each district to carry out the island-wide spraying. It was intended to spray every house, outhouse or stable which could possibly act as a harbouring place for the adult *Anopheles* mosquito, with the exception of a central area within which the mosquito vector was only a chance visitor and in which malaria was not a problem of importance.

Spraying began simultaneously in the six districts in mid-January 1949, and continued as fast as possible within the limits necessary for the efficient application of residual insecticide to surfaces. Three different insecticide preparations were used: (a) D.D.T. in kerosene (b) D.D.T. wettable powder and (c) B.H.C. (gammexane) wettable powder. Careful comparison is being made between these three preparations and, should one be proved to be superior to others, it will be used extensively during the later stages of the campaign. The surface residue of

insecticide applied to walls is frequently checked by chemical estimation, and a satisfactory range of 100–200 mgms/sq. ft. has been recorded in all districts. This deposit is sufficient to exercise a lethal effect upon mosquitoes, particularly those of the *Anopheles* species. During the first campaign, some 75,829 houses comprising more than 376,000 rooms, outhouses, stables, etc., were completed. This represents a total population living in the coastal malarious belt and protected by residual insecticide, of 324,181 persons.

In order to ensure that a maximum residual effect would be maintained during the summer months of 1950, the second spraying campaign began late in August 1949, and was completed by the first week in December. Further areas in which no *Anopheles* mosquitoes had been found since the arrival of the team were omitted during this second spraying, and some 224,000 rooms were sprayed, with a population protected of 188,750.

Although eradication of malaria is the final aim, and is of necessity a long term experiment, the results of the first year's work show several encouraging features. These are as follows:

1. *Anopheles funestus*, the most effective carrier of malaria in the island, has proved to be extremely sensitive to house spraying with residual insecticide. This previously very common vector is now only found with great difficulty even in its most favoured breeding places.

2. *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito, has been rarely found in spite of intensive searching since the first week in March 1949.

3. There has been a striking reduction in spleen and parasite rates in all areas in the island since the preliminary survey carried out before the beginning of the first spraying campaign.

4. The total death rate for the population in 1949 shows a statistically significant reduction on the fifteen previous years, 1934–48. A similar decrease is seen in the infant mortality.

Sanitation

The preliminary survey for the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the townships of Plaines Wilhems was completed and the scheme has now been approved in principle by the Legislative Council. The scheme when completed will serve over 19% of the population and should go far towards controlling water and fly-born diseases which, after malaria have been the principal causes of illness and deaths. Meanwhile, progress in general sanitation is reflected by a steady though slow reduction in the mortality rate from diseases of the alimentary tract.

HOUSING

There is an acute shortage of housing of all kinds in Mauritius. Many private individuals are building their own homes, mainly with concrete blocks manufactured locally. These, though not yet entirely satisfactory, have proved to be the cheapest form of construction for "better-class" housing.

One of the townships is engaged in a scheme for the erection of semi-detached two-bedroom houses which will be let to workers at a rental of Rs. 30-35 per month, according to size. Five blocks have already been constructed and nine more are to be built.

In May was published the Report on the housing of Sugar Estate workers, prepared by Professor Thornton White, F.R.I.B.A. etc., Principal of Capetown University School of Architecture. His recommendations are now being tried out in an experiment at Wooton Tea Estate.

Draft legislation has been prepared for housing, town planning and housing loans, and 1950 should be a year of marked progress in both low cost and better-class housing for the population of this island.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Mauritius has had over two centuries of civilization during which social welfare services have gradually developed. In the past there has been little Government intervention in this field save in the regulation of private charity by legal measures. The administration is now taking a much more active part in social welfare work by having picked Mauritian officers trained in the United Kingdom, and attaching them in a specialist capacity to various government departments on their return. Public Assistance work has been decentralised and the public brought into close co-operation with the authorities in the distribution of relief. Official support is being given to a School for the Blind. Medical assistance is provided free to the poor at public dispensaries. Youth clubs, holiday camps and other welfare activities of the young are being developed by the Youth Organiser attached to the Education Department. The Public Relations Office Mobile Cinema unit is on constant tour in the rural districts. Under the guidance of the three Civil Commissioners almost ninety village councils are concentrating mainly on social welfare work in their own localities. Some of the welfare projects undertaken by these village councils are the construction of playing fields, the sponsoring of sewing classes for girls and handicrafts for boys, the creation of lending libraries and the active support of extra-mural activities in the village schools.

Relief of the destitute and disabled

The distribution of poor relief followed the same pattern as during previous years but the decentralisation of the administration was pursued further. The number of Public Assistance Committees increased and there are now 36 in operation. The main work of these Committees is to take over the direct distribution of relief, under the control and guidance of Government, and to promote the growth of voluntary activities in the field of social welfare. Their interest in the poor is specially manifest at the end of the year when they organise fancy fairs and give treats to the people of their village, distressed children in particular. These committees work in conjunction with the Village Councils and voluntary bodies. As a result of this concerted attempt a few centres, known as "Self-Help" centres, have been started and on the basis of experience gained, it is proposed to increase the number of these organizations. These centres are mainly designed to serve as rehabilitation centres where training in a wide variety of handicrafts is given to the poor and their children. They have, the incidental advantage of providing some partial form of gainful occupation to people dependent on relief. These centres are still in their initial stages and if they expand their activities, as is hoped, they will in time come to play a small but useful part in rural economy.

The outstanding social welfare feature of the year was the announcement made by Government of the introduction of a non-contributory Old Age Pension Scheme. It is proposed to put the scheme into effect as soon as possible and preliminary work has already been undertaken. The benefit rate and the qualifying age limit have not yet been fixed as these will have to be related to the number of persons qualifying under the scheme and to the financial resources of the colony. A survey to find out the number of persons who will qualify for such a pension was in progress at the time of the submission of this report.

Substantial increases in the Poor Law Appropriation were voted by the Legislative Council this year. These increases will enable the administration to be more liberal in its grants to the needy.

Orphanages

The number of State-aided institutions has increased from 15 to 16. The present drive for improved conditions in the Homes has yielded beneficial results. Managers of institutions are now more alive to the need for adopting modern methods and practices. The welfare of orphans in the institutions has been given special attention by the Public Assistance Department. Fêtes, parties

and week-ends at seaside resorts are arranged for their benefit, and these go a long way towards relieving their dull conditions of life and providing a more cheerful atmosphere than was the case in the past. Every effort is being made to rouse public sympathy in their favour.

The " Help the Children " Fund

An organisation known as the Help the Children Fund, has been in operation since 1948. This is a purely voluntary body composed of leading members of the community who spare no pains to raise funds for the relief of the distressed children. The general collection from the public was made on 2nd December, 1949. All resources were again mobilised to rouse the social conscience in favour of the poverty-stricken children and the response of the community has once again been encouraging. The proceeds of the collection will be handed over to the voluntary bodies and regional committees who will use them to provide greater amenities for the children.

Festivals

Special treats were arranged for the inmates of the institutions at Xmas and the New Year. Every adult and child received a personal letter from the Public Assistance Commissioner ; every child had his playthings and toys and no adult remained without a special dish. The New Year atmosphere was thus rendered very cheerful. Local bodies, private firms and charitable individuals also contributed to the general gaiety by sending food parcels, fruits, sweets and playthings.

Infirmaries

The diet of inmates has been receiving special attention, and a special survey was carried out by Miss Chettle, the Nutrition Officer. She has now submitted her report and action is being taken on her recommendations. It is hoped that the improved diet will have a marked effect on the health of the inmates.

School for the Blind

The School for the Blind continues to make progress. This is a voluntary organisation which receives a grant from Government. Its financial resources are slender but the continued demand for the School's products should help it to make ends meet. The number of blind persons cared for and maintained at the School is small, but it is proposed to extend its activities and to induce more blind people to take advantage of its training. It is also proposed to set up a register of the blind in the near future, and the help of the National Institute of the Blind in London

is being sought in this connection. Special provision to provide domiciliary assistance to the blind will be introduced in the new Public Assistance Code now under preparation.

Grants to Voluntary Organizations

Grants continued to be made as in past years. The *Oeuvre du Dîner des Pauvres* and the *Crèche de Bonne Terre* received Rs. 4,500 and Rs. 2,000 respectively. The largest single grant made was to the Maternity and Child Welfare Society. A sum of Rs. 40,375.31 was paid to this organization for milk supplied free to poor people.

Social Welfare Centres.

A large and comprehensive scheme is now being carried out for the benefit of Sugar Industry workers. The Labour Welfare Fund Committee which derives its funds from a special duty imposed on sugar has now approved the construction of 14 Social Welfare Centres spread over the island. Four are already in process of construction and the foundation stones of two more have been laid. The emphasis is at present on the provision of maternity, child care and general clinical work but the centres will expand into other activities as equipment becomes available. Cultural and educational work will also be undertaken and these centres should provide an effective nucleus for community and social life. A number of girl cadets are now following a course of intensive training, after which they will be posted to these centres as full-time workers.

Staff and Training

Provision has been made in this year's estimates for the post of Social Welfare Adviser. The officer chosen will take over the administration on the Public Assistance Department, co-ordinate the various schemes of social welfare now being carried out and advise on further action. The local training of field staff in social welfare theory and practice has been continued. A few students recently trained in the United Kingdom have returned to the colony and have been entrusted with responsible work.

Unmarried Mothers and the Prevention of Prostitution

Something is being done with the aid of religious bodies to help unmarried mothers and to combat any tendencies towards prostitution or traffic in women. This is no very serious evil in Mauritius but dangers are always present. A Lady Officer has been instructed to visit all unmarried mothers she may know of, listen sympathetically to their needs and take such steps as are necessary for their welfare. The department tries to find employment for them, provide them with medical care and rehabilitate them.

Rehabilitation work in Prisons and Hospitals

An attempt has been made to interest women prisoners and hospital inmates suffering from tuberculosis in some form of light occupation. The pathological conditions of life of these patients are only too obvious but attempts to take their minds off their unhappy state have not met with any appreciable success.

Poor Man's Lawyer

The high cost of litigation tells heavily on the poor man's pocket. The Supreme Court may grant applications "*in forma pauperis*" when it is satisfied that the parties cannot pay, but such relief is not lightly granted. A Poor Man's Lawyer Scheme to advise poor people on any legal difficulties they may experience has therefore been brought into operation.

New Public Assistance Code

The present Poor Law Code which governs the grant of relief has outlived its day. New and more comprehensive legislation is now being considered and, if passed by Legislative Council, will empower Government to tackle the problems of poverty on a wider scale and to introduce social welfare schemes more in conformity with the present needs and demands of the community.

Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile offenders are dealt with in the first instance by the Probation Officers. After a careful enquiry has been made the magistrates of the Juvenile Courts either release them on probation, send them to the Industrial School or, if they are older than 18 years, detain them at the Borstal Institution. This institution was opened in October 1947 and had 23 inmates by the end of that year. There are at present 59 boys undergoing Borstal training, a decrease of 21 from the 1948 total. There are four grades of detainees: ordinary, probationary, special and penal. After four months in the first grade boys are promoted to the second provided their work and conduct has been satisfactory. They spend eight months in the probationary grade, from which promotion to the special grade qualifies them for a position of trust and certain privileges. Misconduct or idleness brings about reduction to the penal grade. Trades taught are carpentry, basket making, tinsmithing, tailoring and barbering. Boys not engaged in a trade do manual work in the garden and buildings of the institution. A Borstal Visiting Committee which meets once a month and, among other things, decides on questions of release, was formed in February 1948.

The Industrial School which was created in 1936 is run on the lines of an Approved School in England.

There are 198 inmates of the School, an increase of 94 above the 1948 total. Boys are sent to the school for 3, 4 and 5 years or until the age of 18 if they are over 15 on reception.

The school is divided into a Junior and Senior section, the age of 14 being the dividing line.

Teaching in Vocational Training is given in a number of trades. Class room subjects are taken by teachers seconded from the Education Department. Drill, physical training, football, volleyball, and boxing are an important part of the school programme.

The welfare activities of the boys include scouting, a fife and drum band, cinema shows, concerts and talks. There is also a school library. Boys are allowed regular visits from relatives and friends, and those of the Special Grade are granted week-end leave.

Probation Services

The Probation of Offenders Ordinance (No. 58 of 1946) came into force in June 1947, and was made applicable to the district courts of Port Louis, Rose Hill and Curepipe. Prior to this a local civil servant who had followed the Home Office Probation Officer's Course and gained practical experience in the London Probation Service, had returned to the island and taken up his duties as Probation Officer. In July 1947, control over the probation service was transferred from the Prisons to the Judicial Department, so that no stigma should be attached to it in people's minds and in order to place emphasis on the reformatory rather than the punitive aspect of the problem.

In April 1948, the system was extended to two other district courts, Pamplemousses and Moka. It has now been applied to the whole island and is working satisfactorily. Probation is being applied to adults as well as to young people, and it has been found that they respond to the treatment just as well as, if not better than the children.

Public opinion in this field is being educated by means of radio talks and group discussions. And attention is being paid to the preventive aspect by finding suitable occupations for those whose lack of employment may lead them into delinquency.

In every Court where probation has been made applicable there is a Probation Committee composed of about half a dozen persons from different walks of life who pool their experience and goodwill with the Magistrate and the Probation Officer. There is also a Central Probation Committee which meets under the Master and Registrar, Supreme Court. This Central Committee is composed of Magistrates, a few Heads of Departments which specifically perform social services and representatives of the various religious denominations. The District or Case Committees bring the problems which they cannot solve on their own to the Central Probation Committee for the necessary help and guidance.

By Ordinance 47 of 1949 the supervision of the Probation Officer was extended to persons sentenced to fines and granted time by the Court to pay such penalties, provided the magistrate considered supervision advisable.

Chapter VIII : Legislation

Fifty-two Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor during the year 1949. These Ordinances, with three exceptions, deal with matters of domestic concern, and the more important of them are:

The Divorce and Judicial Separation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 1 of 1949).

This Ordinance adds a section to Ordinance No. 37 of 1882 and makes provision for enabling the unsuccessful party in a suit of divorce or judicial separation himself to move that the decree nisi obtained by the other party be made absolute in the event of the latter not making the application after the statutory period of three months and an additional period of six weeks.

The Agricultural Bank (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 3 of 1949).

This Ordinance makes an additional exception to the rule that the Mauritius Agricultural Bank does not make loans on the security of a mortgage on immovable property which does not have priority over other mortgages already burdening the said property. It makes it possible for the Bank to make loans on the security of mortgages inferior in rank to mortgages already securing loans under the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock) Ordinance, 1948.

The Mandated and Trust Territories Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 4 of 1949).

The object of this Ordinance is to provide that, with the termination of the League of Nations and the creation of trust territories in accordance with the United Nations Charter, existing Ordinances and subsidiary legislation made thereunder which contain references to mandated territories shall (a) apply to mandated territories which have now become trust territories and (b) continue to apply to mandated territories which have not become trust territories.

The Immigration (Control) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 6 of 1949).

The twofold object of this Ordinance is (1) to restrict the practically unlimited latitude enjoyed by foreigners to return freely to the Colony under the label of "old residents" often after they have been away for a great number of years; (2) to provide a sanction for persons admitted to the Colony as *bona fide* visitors who fail to depart within six months of their arrival.

The Commissioner for the Government of India (Exemption from Taxes) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 7 of 1949).

This Ordinance confers on the Commissioner for India in Mauritius the privilege of exemption from Poll Tax and Customs duties which is enjoyed by consular officers of foreign powers.

The Registration of Clubs Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 8 of 1949).

This Registration was passed with a view to ensuring that private clubs and societies are conducted in good faith as such, and are not used as common gambling houses and taverns under the cover of the law.

The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 12 of 1949).

This Ordinance enjoins that prisoners sentenced to penal servitude for a crime, when on their way to, or at, or on their way back from work outside the prisons, shall be under the control of armed guards. The latter may fire upon any such prisoners attempting to escape if there are no other means of preventing their escape. A guard firing upon prisoners in those circumstances incurs no liability, civil or criminal.

The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 13 of 1949).

This Ordinance gives the right to any pensionable female Officer having reached pensionable status to retire from the service on pension on marriage or at any time thereafter.

The Midwives (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 15 of 1949).

This Ordinance adds to the powers of the Midwives Board to make regulations that of making regulations "for regulating, supervising and restricting within due limits the practice of midwifery" and provides for the regulations made by the Midwives Board to be laid on the table of the Council.

The Diplomatic Privileges (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 16 of 1949).

This Ordinance has introduced a few amendments to the Diplomatic Privileges Ordinance, 1947 (Ordinance No. 4 of 1947), the most important being (1) to enable the Governor to confer upon representatives of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, or members of their staff, the same diplomatic privileges in the Colony as are enjoyed by the representatives of foreign governments, (2) to provide for the compilation and publication in the *Gazette* of lists of all persons entitled to diplomatic privileges.

The Ordinances and Proclamations Enrolment Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 20 of 1949).

This Ordinance was passed to provide that Ordinances and Proclamations be enrolled in the registry of the Supreme Court so that the Judges of the Supreme Court can without further or other proof, take cognizance of them.

The Liquor (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 21 of 1949).

This Ordinance provides for the membership of the Liquor Licensing Board to be appointed annually by the Governor upon whom is conferred the power to vary such membership at any time; the Ordinance provides a quarterly licence of Rs. 150 to be paid by distillers compounding in Port Louis colonial spirits for export.

The Local Naturalization (Repeal) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 26 of 1949).

The enactments regulating the grant of naturalization exclusively enjoyable within the Colony, having become otiose since the passing of the British Nationality Act, 1948, are repealed by this Ordinance.

The Widows and Orphans Pension Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 28 of 1949).

This Ordinance gives officers transferred from Palestine to this Colony the possibility of making to the Mauritius Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund a lump sum payment equal to the accumulated contributions paid by them to the corresponding Fund which was in operation in Palestine before the termination of the British Mandate in that territory.

The Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund Incorporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 29 of 1949).

The main objects of this Ordinance are (1) to make it quite clear that the assistance vouchsafed by the Fund does not extend to persons who voluntarily enlisted after the cessation of hostilities ; (2) to effect, in the composition of the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee changes which the Legislative Council had expressed to be desirable.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 31 of 1949).

This Ordinance was passed with the object of raising additional revenue by the increase of customs duties already leviable on certain imported goods and the imposition of duties on certain other goods not hitherto subject to duty.

The Road Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 32 of 1949).

The object of this Ordinance is the same as that of the one last mentioned: it increases the rates for motor vehicle licences generally.

The Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949). (Ordinance No. 33 of 1949).

By this Ordinance, tuberculosis is declared, for purposes of notification only, to be a contagious disease, and notification of the disease is made compulsory with the view of facilitating the projected survey of tuberculosis in the Colony.

The Agricultural Bank (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 34 of 1949).

The power already possessed by the Mauritius Agricultural Bank to borrow money by means of the issue of bills for the purpose of making small loans, i.e., loans not exceeding Rs. 5,000—to small planters, is not affected by this Ordinance.

It confers on the Bank the further power to borrow by the same mode sums not exceeding Rs. 3,000,000 in the aggregate for the purpose of making loans other than small loans.

Such sums will in no case be repayable by the Bank in less than three months ; the principal sums borrowed and the interest thereon shall be a charge on the general revenue not only of the Bank, but also of the Colony.

The Government shall have a privilege on all assets of the Bank for debts due or which may eventually become due by the latter to the former.

The General Cyclone and Drought Reserve Fund Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 35 of 1949).

This Ordinance makes provision for the constitution, administration and control of a fund made of all the interest payments on loans amounting to £1,300,000 made to the Sugar Industry, and of a portion of the repaid capital, viz., £500,000, to be allocated to the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund in the proportion of 70%, the balance being used for the making of grants to the needy owners of huts for the purpose of assisting them in repairing and rebuilding huts of theirs which may have been damaged or destroyed in a cyclone.

The Sugar Industry Reserve Funds (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 36 of 1949).

The main object of this Ordinance is to bring within the incidence of the Poll Tax the recipients of awards made out of the Reserve Funds established under Ordinance No. 3 of 1948. This object is achieved by the Section of this Ordinance which repeals and replaces section 8 of the 1948 Ordinance.

There is, however a proviso to subsection 2 of the substituted section exempting from Poll Tax the portion of capital expenditure incurred by which such expenditure is reduced by an award made out of the Rehabilitation Fund, and providing that, in the computation of allowances made under the Graduated Poll Tax Ordinance 1939, as subsequently amended (cf.s.6 of Ordinance No. 69 of 1946), the amount of capital expenditure incurred shall be deemed to be only such portion of that amount as attracts Poll Tax.

The Medical Practitioners Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 38 of 1949).

This Ordinance provides the possibility of restoring on the Medical Practitioners' Register the name of a medical practitioner who has been ordered to be erased therefrom where the justice of the case calls for such a course.

The Municipal Elections (Postponement) Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 40 of 1949).

This Ordinance was passed to prolong the life of the present Municipal Council for one year, as it was not found possible to introduce the necessary legislation in time for implementing the wish expressed by the Legislative Council that the Municipal Elections due to take place in December 1949 should be held on new bases.

The Registration of Associations Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 45 of 1949).

The Ordinance gives legal recognition to the avowed policy of the Government to recognize freedom of associations not repugnant to law, morality or public order. It provides for the conditions subject to which such associations may be incorporated and for an effective control by a Registrar of all associations registered under its provisions.

The Payment of Fines by Instalments Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 47 of 1949).

This Ordinance provides that persons sentenced to pay pecuniary penalties who are granted time to pay such penalties may, in the discretion of the Court, be placed under the supervision of a probation officer. The latter will eventually submit a report before any step is taken towards execution in whatever form.

The Status of Married Women Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 50 of 1949).

This Ordinance effects far-reaching changes in the law governing the status and property of married women.

Where parties intending to marry declare to the Civil Status Officer that they wish to be governed by the provisions of this Ordinance, the provisions of the Civil Code governing matrimonial regimes no longer apply and the woman of age retains her full capacity to deal with her property and to act in all matters as if she were not married.

The Ordinance applies also to couples already married who, within three years of its commencement, declare before the Master and Registrar of the Supreme Court that they wish that the provisions of the Ordinance shall henceforth apply to them.

The Tea Industry Control Ordinance, 1949. (Ordinance No. 51 of 1949).

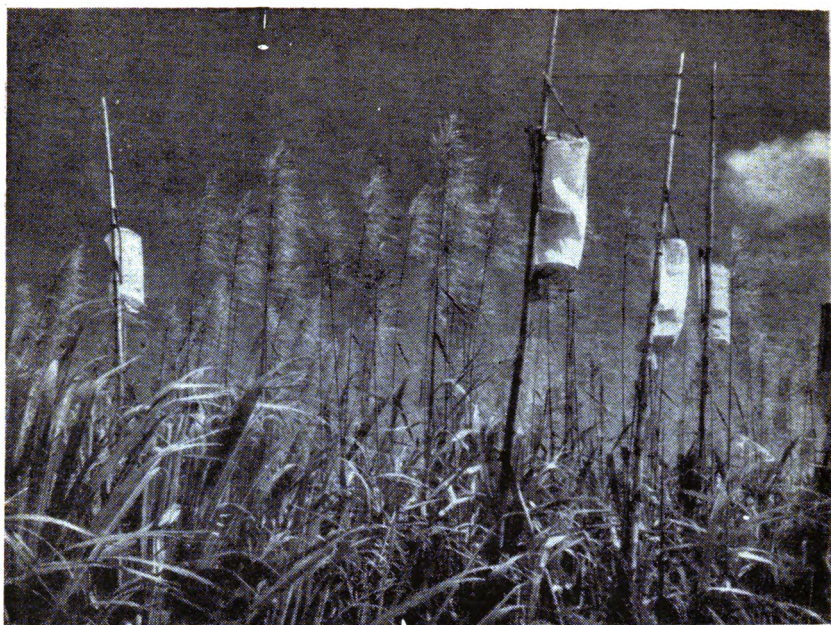
This Ordinance regulates the production, manufacture and sale of local tea ; it repeals and reproduces with modifications the Tea Industry Control Ordinance, 1943. (Ordinance No. 37 of 1943).



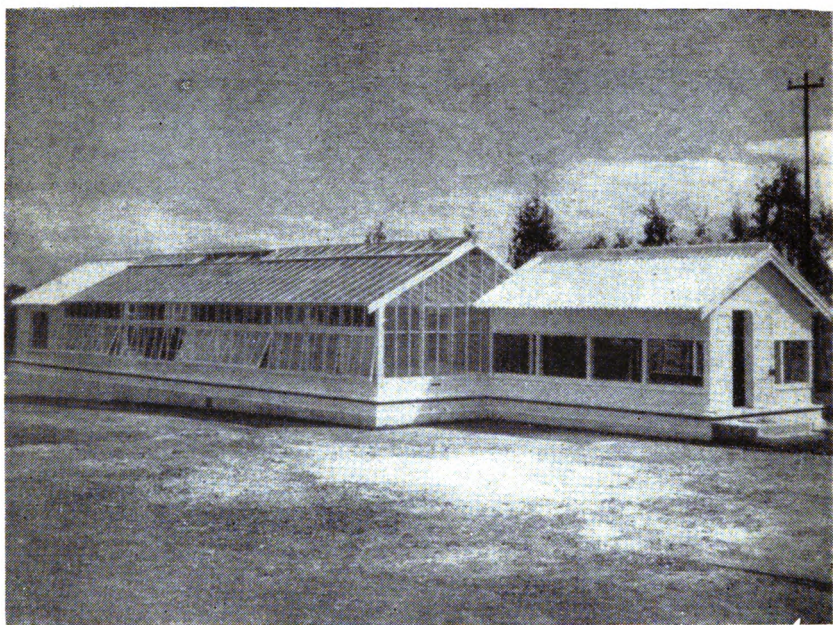
A Civil Commissioner answers a query about the minimum wage ordinance.



A Primary School which has been built by one of the Village Councils.



Seed bags, made of transparent muslin, for collecting the seeds of the sugarcane (fuzz) and preventing them from being blown away by the wind.



New cane varieties imported from abroad cannot be planted direct in the field as they might harbour insect pests and diseases which do not exist in the Colony. The cuttings are therefore planted in sterilized soil in tubs in the plant quarantine greenhouse at Réduit Department of Agriculture.

The new and improved greenhouse erected in 1949 is shown above.



Beau Plan Marsh before draining.



A corner of Beau Plan marsh shortly after it had been drained by the Malaria Engineer's gang of workers



A DDT spraying gang unloading their equipment at the outskirts of a Mauritian village.



A morning session at Cannonniers' Point Holiday Camp during one of the training courses held for youth leaders.

The most important modification is the provision for the appointment of an Executive Committee with consequential restrictions of the Controller's powers.

The Ordinance also regulates, *inter alia*, the registering of factories and plantations, the control of acreage under tea cultivation, the grading and marketing of tea and the relations between factory owners and tea planters.

Chapter IX : Justice

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French codes. The Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made to them to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Island. There is also a great number of Ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Civil and Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English, as well as the whole system of the Labour Laws.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of Judicature presided over by the Chief Justice assisted by two Puisne Judges. The Executive officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar who is also a judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as His Majesty's Court of King's Bench in England. It exercises Admiralty jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890 and is also a Court of Equity. It has jurisdiction over all the other Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles. Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men ; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in Civil cases in which the subject matter does not exceed one thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of accidental death or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable at the Assize Court. They also deal with certain matters in Chambers.

The summary jurisdiction of the District Courts in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three magistrates who can impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years.

The number of magistrates has been increased from 9 to 11 in the 1949-50 establishment. One of them, as Resident Magistrate, administers justice in the dependency of Rodrigues. A visiting magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

The Industrial Court is also presided over by a Magistrate who has jurisdiction in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the magistracy has since 1945 been vested in the Chief Justice.

There has been an increase of about 20% in the number of civil cases entered before the Supreme Court, as compared with the previous year. The number of cases filed before the Industrial Court has doubled and there has been an appreciable increase in the number of cases brought before the District Courts.

POLICE

History

The origin of a Police organisation in Mauritius has been traced back to as far as 1766 when the island was a French possession.

In 1810, after the British occupation, the then existing police organization apparently continued under British administration, Mr. A. W. Blane being the first British Officer to command what is now the Mauritius Police Force.

From time to time the Force was reorganized and its present organization appears to have been the result of recommendations of a Commission of Enquiry in 1859, which amalgamated the Police with the Municipal Police under one superior command bearing the title of Inspector General of Police. This title was replaced in 1934 by that of Commissioner of Police.

The Police Ordinance giving effect to the report of the 1859 Commission was subsequently replaced by the Police Ordinance of 1893 which, after 55 years, is still in force, though amended from time to time. This Ordinance regulates the organization, discipline, powers and duties of the force, as well as the enlistment, engagement and re-engagement of the personnel and the conditions of service of members of the force.

Organization

After a serious political riot in 1911, the Mauritius Police started elementary training and was gradually converted into a semi-military force in the ensuing years as a result of increased responsibility in the maintenance of internal order and to deal with emergencies created by the two World Wars.

With the return of peace and relatively normal local conditions, the military characteristics of the force as a lethal striking power have been almost completely removed. However, training in elementary and baton drills is still maintained and a certain number of the personnel are trained in the use of tear gas. In addition to a static reserve in Port Louis, each district is now provided with baton and tear gas sections which may be mobilised at short notice.

Communications throughout the force are maintained by telephone and, when and if required, by despatch riders. Mobile wireless sections consisting of three Ford station wagons fitted with W/T units and a static wireless station are also available, by means of which communication can be established between the remotest part of the island and Police Headquarters in cases of emergency.

The force is responsible for its own mobility, and is equipped to move 300 men at short notice to any part of the island and to maintain a line of communication with Police Headquarters for supplies, reinforcement, etc.

In addition to its primary responsibility for preventing and detecting crimes and maintaining law and order, the force is responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, the issuing of licences (motor vehicles, drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue (amounting to over one and a half million rupees), the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

With the spread of education and political consciousness among the population, and with the advent of modern means of communications, the policeman, even in this remote part of the Empire, has to be educated, intelligent and possessed of a high degree of initiative and sense of civic responsibility if he is to play his part properly and efficiently.

General Review of the Year

1949 will be remembered in the history of the Mauritius Police as, apart from general routine progress and minor re-organization, it has been marked by considerable improvements in the pay and allowances of all ranks of the force and by the adoption of the 8 hours shift scheme, which will incidentally cause a substantial increase in the strength of the force.

There are ample indications that both Officers and the rank and file are satisfied with these reforms which should not only improve efficiency of existing personnel but also attract a better type of recruit in the future.

Establishment

The present establishment of the force is 25 gazetted officers and 682 other ranks (excluding the band). This represents one policeman per 648 head of population, also twenty local police-women employed on clerical duties. At the close of the year all the officers of the Mauritius Police Force were locally born. The 4 British officers who were on the strength at the beginning of 1949 had been transferred to other colonies.

Distribution of Personnel

The personnel of the force is distributed among:

- (a) Police Headquarters and its eight branches ;
- (b) six District Police Headquarters controlling 43 police stations and posts ;
- (c) the Forensic Science Laboratory ;
- (d) the Railway Police ;
- (e) the Rodriguez Police.

Police Headquarters

The Commissioner of Police, assisted by his Deputy Commissioner and various other officers, controls the whole force from his headquarters situated in the historic compound of Line Barracks (of French construction) in Port Louis.

The following special branches of the force are each under the charge of a gazetted officer:

Criminal Investigation Branch.

Pay and Quartermaster Branch.

Road Traffic Branch.

Revenue and Liquor Branch.

Training School.

Police Armoury.

Band.

Water Police.

The Rodriguez Police.

The Criminal Investigation Department and Crime

This organization, with an effective strength of 2 officers and 28 other ranks, is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature; it also affords assistance to the district police when necessary.

To the Criminal Investigation Department are attached the Finger Print and *Modus Operandi* Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section and the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals.

The total number of crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions dealt with by the Police during 1949 was 39,893, as against 40,804 in 1948, and 41,026 in 1947.

More than two-thirds of these cases were of a minor character and included contraventions of all types (24,671), petty larcenies, trivial assaults, etc. The total number of cases classified as crimes during the year was only 649. There has been no serious outbreak of crime in the Colony in recent years. Regular patrols by men on foot and in vehicles, the systematic and continuous supervision of bad characters, receivers of stolen property and habitual criminals have proved an efficient deterrent to the criminal class.

Firearms are rigidly controlled. During the year 5,083 firearm licences were issued.

The Pay and Quartermaster Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the force, this Branch is divided into two sections: the Pay section and the Store section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster.

The Pay section is specially responsible for all the finance and accounting of the force and for the collection of inland revenue ; the Store section deals with the indenting of materials, the manufacture and issue of uniform to all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the force.

Road Traffic Control and Police Transport

With the great increase of motor vehicles in the Colony since the end of the war, road traffic conditions in Mauritius are now such that the work of the Traffic Control branch has become considerably more important and arduous during the last three years.

The following table shows the present strength of the Branch in personnel and vehicles, compared to what it was in the two last decades :

PERSONNEL

				1928	1938	1949
Officers	...	...	...	1	2	2
Warrant Officers	...	...	...	-	-	1
N.C.O's	...	...	...	4	3	9
Constables	...	...	...	5	13	62
Police Women	...	...	...	-	-	3
TOTAL				10	18	77

VEHICLES

				1928	1938	1949
Lorries	...	...	...	1	1	5
Motor Wagon	...	...	...	1	-	-
Motor Cars	...	...	...	1	1	4
Wireless Vans	...	...	...	-	-	3
Jeep Station Wagons	...	...	...	-	-	4
Vans	...	...	...	-	-	1
Ford Station Wagons	...	...	...	-	-	6
Motor Cycles (combinations)	...	...	...	-	2	-
Motor cycles (solos)	...	...	...	3	2	16
TOTAL				6	6	39

Among the many duties for which the Traffic Branch is responsible are the enforcement of the Road Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, the control of traffic on the roads, the licensing of drivers and vehicles and the examination of goods and public service vehicles.

Motor cycle patrols cover the main roads of the island by day and by night and are responsible for reporting offences against the traffic laws, for preventing such offences as far as they possibly can and endeavouring to teach driving discipline and road courtesy. Similarly, foot patrols are employed in Port Louis regulating traffic, enforcing parking regulations, seeing that the pedestrian crossings are properly used and dealing with cases of obstruction. One of the wireless vans is fitted with a loud-speaker unit which is used for traffic and crowd control.

One of the most difficult problems with which the police and the motoring public have to contend is the absence of large parking areas in the main towns.

The police garage, staffed by a sergeant-mechanic assisted by eight mechanics, one coach builder, two painters, one upholsterer and one electrician, is equipped to carry out the maintenance of and repairs to the thirty-nine vehicles belonging to the force.

A drawing office with a qualified draughtsman in charge is also attached to the branch.

The Revenue and Liquor Branch

This branch controls the collection of inland revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of the 8,860 trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of the premises of licensees are effected by the personnel of the branch, whose duties are also to prevent and detect offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs and Weights and Measures laws.

The recent limitation in the output of rum for local consumption resulted in the increased activity of illicit distillers working bush stills, and in the removal of rum from licensed distilleries without paying the prescribed excise duties. These frauds were successfully combatted though results were not easy to achieve on account of the bushy nature of the waste lands frequented by the illicit distillers; these places have to be approached by night after long marches through marshy grounds, as pickets are placed at strategic places by the distillers.

The Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 18 and 25, after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are finally made by a Standing Board of Officers appointed for the purpose.

The school aims at training the members of the force on the same lines as the training given in England, and to inculcate in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and the ability to rely on their own judgment and resources.

The training period of recruits at the Training School is six months, which affords ample time to the instructors to give them adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

Recruits undergo theoretical training during the first three months, and practical training including station and street duties during the second half of their stage at the School.

Courses in United Kingdom

In 1948 a start was made on sending officers to follow courses in England. A sergeant took a course at the Metropolitan Police Detective Training School at Hendon and was successful in his final examinations.

This was followed up in 1949 when arrangements were made for 3 more Officers to benefit from similar courses. A detective Non-Commissioned Officer was successful at Hendon and followed courses on the latest method in fingerprints, *modus operandi* and photography at New Scotland Yard. On his return he was able to re-organize these three sections of the Criminal Investigation Department. Numerous lectures were delivered by this Officer and the knowledge of detection and of taking fingerprints has been considerably improved in the Force.

An Officer followed courses at New Scotland Yard and received training in tear gas at the Joint School of Chemical Warfare at Winterbourne Gunner.

Two other Officers who were following courses in England had not returned to the Colony at the close of the year.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was created in 1921, is a full military brass band, composed of fully trained musicians. The dance orchestra formed in 1947 from among members of the band is much appreciated by the dancing fans of the community. The full band, its wind quintet and the dance orchestra broadcast occasionally over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. The band also gives public performances and concerts throughout the island, and is available for private engagements on fee.

The Water Police

A Water Police Unit was established during the early part of 1948. The unit is composed of one N.C.O. and six constables possessing special aptitude for duties afloat. The unit operates an up-to-date motor launch, the "Alert."

The main duties of the unit are general harbour work on the arrival and departure of ships, day and night patrols and the maintenance of order in the harbour of Port Louis, the prevention of illegal emigration and immigration and, with the co-operation of the Customs Department and Port Services, the prevention of smuggling and illicit trade in dangerous drugs.

During the year, the "Alert" boarded 215 ships calling at and leaving Mauritius.

Police Districts

Although geographically the island is divided into 9 districts, for the purpose of police administration it is divided into 6 police districts.

The districts of Port Louis and Upper Plaines Wilhems, which are the most important residential areas, each constitute one police district. The remaining districts are grouped into 4 country police districts. A Superintendent is in charge of each police district and is responsible to the Commissioner of Police for the efficient enforcement of law and order in his district.

Police districts are sub-divided into station areas, each of which is controlled by a police station under the charge of an N.C.O with a staff of constables under him.

The district police are also responsible for all criminal prosecution before their respective district courts.

Police districts are provided with independent transport in the shape of station wagons posted at district headquarters and bicycles at all police stations. District means of transport can be supplemented without delay by requisition on the Traffic Branch.

Games, Recreations and Amenities

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The force possesses good football and hockey teams. Basket ball was introduced recently. Inter-district and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played.

The Officers, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms.

A canteen, stocked with a great variety of dry provisions and commodities and bottled liquors, is open to all ranks of the force. Here the best quality goods can be purchased at minimum prices. Goods are sent carriage free to members of the force posted in any part of the island and in the dependency of Rodriguez.

The police band contributes to official and semi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the force.

A library and reading room is open daily to members of the force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews and newspapers regularly imported from Europe and America are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the force posted at out-stations in the country districts.

The Police Museum

A Police Museum which contains a fine collection of exhibits connected with important criminal cases, of firearms and other offensive weapons, bush stills, historical documents, dossiers and photographs, is open daily to all ranks of the force and the general public and has proved to be of great interest to visitors. 123 persons visited the Museum during the year.

Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the force was established in 1938 and is believed to be the only one of its kind in the Colonial Police Forces. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer assisted by a suitably trained staff.

In addition to the co-operation it brings about between the scientist and the police Officer in the investigation of crime—so essential in these modern times—the work of this branch includes the keeping of up-to-date records of sickness of all members of the force, the scientific examination of exhibits (including documents), research work, and the examination of candidates for enlistment.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are regularly delivered by the Medical Officer.

First Aid—St. John's Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in first aid were given to members of the Police Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Brigade. All lectures were delivered by qualified Medical Officers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstrations, in accordance with the regulations of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas. Examinations were held during the year. 75 members of the Force are now qualified and are holders of the St. John's certificate.

Three courses of lectures followed by an examination are held yearly for new candidates, and refresher courses followed by re-examination are given to qualified members so as to maintain the necessary standard of knowledge in first aid.

A Mauritius police division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

Cinema Film Censorship

The Commissioner of Police is the chairman of the Cinema Censorship Committee, whose records are kept at Police Headquarters. The Committee viewed 481 films in 1949 as compared to 487 in 1948. The majority of films projected on the screens of the Colony are French and Indian. A few English and American films are also received.

The Censorship Committee's policy is that films released for public exhibition should conform with proper standards of decency and morality, and that nothing likely to prejudice the safety of the state or law and order should be exhibited.

The Press and the Police

The good relations that exist between the Police and the Press must be recorded and thanks are especially due to all the editors who afforded generous space for police communiqués and news items during the year under review. As the chief reading matter of the bulk of the population, the newspapers reach all sections of the community and as such have been of considerable help in circularising notices, warnings, etc., particularly in connection with the Road Safety Campaign.

Machinery exists at Police Headquarters to ensure that information to the Press passes through the proper channel and the Staff Officer of the force hears every morning the hopeful queries of Press reporters and gives them details of the few daily happenings which can be given publicity.

PRISONS

Since the last report a new Superintendent of Prisons has arrived in the Colony and assumed duty.

A Selection Board was held in September to interview candidates for the appointment of Chief Officer and Assistant Chief Officer respectively. These appointments will complete the senior personnel.

Beau Bassin Prison with accommodation for 960 prisoners is the main prison where all male prisoners are received, classified and, where possible, put to work in their respective trades in the following shops : Carpenters, Tailors, Shoemakers, Tinsmiths, Blacksmiths and Basket Makers.

There are extensive gardens surrounding the Prisons and these enable the Prison Department to be self-supporting as regards vegetables.

The old prison at Port Louis is still being used to accommodate about 90 long term Star Class prisoners who are employed in the Orthopaedic workshops. These prisoners are selected and transferred from Beau Bassin to Port Louis.

Within the prison grounds at Port Louis but completely shut off from the male prison is the female prison with accommodation for 30 prisoners.

The daily average of female prisoners is 14.29. They are employed in making prison clothing and mattresses.

PRISON STATISTICS FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS

			1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Total Admissions	...	...	3,225	2,860	2,573	2,552	2,052
Convicted	...	...	1,153	2,028	1,973	1,943	1,656
Death Sentences	...	...	—	6	—	1	
Reprieves	...	...	—	3	—	1	1
Corporal Punishment	...	...	2	—	—	—	—
Death (inc. executions)	...	...	14	15	10	5	1
Escapes	...	...	49	15	15	8	7

Chapter X : Public Utilities and Public Works

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic, Irrigation and Hydro-Electric

The water resources of Mauritius are mainly dependent on the incidence of cyclones which pass by near enough to bring rain. Average rainfall varies from 25 inches in the coastal belt to 150 inches in the super-humid uplands. Rainfall is heaviest in the period December to April. From May to August lighter rains, chiefly up-country, are usually sufficient to maintain the supplies gained during the wet season. In the driest part of the year, from September to November, the flow of water in the rivers dwindles to a negligible amount. It has proved necessary to construct

a number of reservoirs to maintain a more stable distribution of water supplies for domestic, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes. Increased consumption on all three counts has led to a post-war development programme which includes the construction of four new reservoirs and the laying of new water mains.

The existing reservoirs are at Mare-aux-Vacoas (7 sq. miles ; 597 million cub. feet), La Ferme (6.8 sq. miles ; 46 million cub. feet) and La Nicolière (3 sq. miles ; 202 million cub. feet). Mare-aux-Vacoas supplies domestic water, and also irrigation water after it has been used for hydro-electric purposes. La Ferme and La Nicolière are used for irrigation. Work was completed in September 1949, on the 220 million cub. feet storage reservoir at Mare Longue, and although the reservoir had not filled up by the end of the year, sufficient water was collected to supply 210 million cub. feet to Tamarin Falls hydro-electric power station. Preliminary work was begun as early as July on the new domestic water storage reservoir at Piton du Milieu. When completed, this reservoir will supply the districts of the north and east of the island, together with lower Grand Port and part of Savanne.

All the above reservoirs are Government projects. There is also a privately owned reservoir at Tamarin to supply water to the power station. Extension works on this 72 million cub. feet project and on the feeder pipe lines to the turbines have been in progress for some time.

A new masonry and concrete dam at the head of the Magenta Irrigation Canal, to serve the upper part of Black River district, was half-completed by the end of 1949. This canal will pick up water from Mare Longue and Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoirs after it has passed through the Tamarin falls power station, thereby eliminating the waste of valuable water for irrigation purposes.

In the north of the island the 300,000 gallon service reservoir at Goodlands and the 150,000 gallon reservoir at Plaine des Papayes have been completed. Seven miles of trunk mains to these reservoirs have been laid and also three miles of service mains along the Grand Bay—Cap Malheureux road another three miles in Flacq and eight miles of trunk and distributory mains in Plaines Wilhems.

The revenue derived by Government from domestic water supplies amounted to Rs. 219,914 a slight increase over the 1948 figure.

PUBLIC WORKS

Buildings and Roads

Difficulties continued to be experienced in obtaining building materials for the carrying out of maintenance works. The "freezing" of the building programme under the Ten Year Development and Welfare Plan, for eight months of the year while this plan was being examined by the Reviewing Committee, severely limited the number of new works undertaken.

An examination shed was constructed for the Customs Department, nurses' quarters built at Flacq district hospital, two garages made for the Police and Postal departments and alterations carried out in the Civil Hospital, the Mauritius Institute, Government House, Port Louis, the Registrar General's Department and the Prisons, Beau Bassin.

The repairs to Sebastopol road were completed, good progress was made on the Curepipe—Quartier Militaire road, and a new by-pass road was built between Floréal and Vacoas. Improvements were effected to the roads and curves leading to Long Mountain.

Survey Works

This section was strengthened by the arrival from England in June of an Assistant Architect. Besides its normal work the Survey Branch continued its surveys of land needed for Development and Welfare projects. Most private owners show great unwillingness to sell and in certain cases Government had to resort to compulsory acquisition. The procedure for doing so is cumbersome, antiquated and tedious, and consideration is being given to a revision of the law on this question.

ELECTRICITY

At the General Electric Supply Co's undertaking at Tamarin Falls, from which the bulk of the Colony's electricity requirements are obtained, the work of installing a new pipe-line between the surge tank at the head of the falls and the generating station was completed. Work on a new impounding reservoir at Mare Longue, which is to be used for both irrigation and hydro-electric purposes and which has a capacity of 220 million cubic feet, was also completed. Despite these improved facilities, however, restrictions on the use of electricity must continue to be enforced until a new generating plant, which is on order from the U.K. has been installed at the Tamarin station and also until work on the Magenta Canal, by means of which improved water supplies will be made available for hydro-electric purposes, has been completed.

The number of units generated during the year at the various hydro-electric stations reached a figure of 17,500,000, an increase of 2,000,000 units on last year's figure.

TELEPHONES

During the year the number of public telephone stations increased by 336, bringing the end of the year total to 4,262. Shortage of exchange equipment and other materials made it impossible to meet all the demands for new telephone services and at the close of the year there were 600 potential subscribers awaiting connection to the system. The number of calls made during the year amounted to 3,317,575.

BROADCASTING

Further expansion of the Government broadcasting services took place during 1949. The daily transmission time was increased to 6½ hours, a new bi-weekly programme in Chinese was added to the existing programmes in English, French, Hindustani and Ki-Swahili, and a regular shortwave transmission for listeners overseas was started on 20th November. Since July 1944, when the M.B.S. was inaugurated, the number of licensed listeners has increased from 1,300 to 6,934. During 1949, no less than 1,946 new licences were taken out.

Reception reports of the 1½ Kw. shortwave transmitter, from the Dependencies, Durban, Madagascar, Southern Rhodesia and Kongwa in Tanganyika reveal that from one to three of the daily transmissions are being satisfactorily received in each of these areas. Other reports, from radio fans, have been received from as far afield as Sweden, England, Australia, Indonesia, the Belgian Congo, California and New York. Home listeners are served by the main transmitter of the M.B.S., a mediumwave set with an aerial output of 5 Kw.

The technical reorganization begun in 1947 was considerably advanced this year by the installation of new control-room equipment, in particular a studio-type dual-speed gramophone recorder. This instrument has proved a blessing to both programme staff and the numerous amateurs who can now record their programmes at convenient times and, what is equally valuable, criticise their own performances. Live musical programmes have benefitted from the acquisition by the M.B.S. of a concert grand piano. A total of 228 live broadcasts, including 15 outside broadcasts, were put on the air during 1949. Guest artistes of note included Claude

Casadeseus ('cellist'), Jacques Genty (pianist), Mme Lola Bobesco (violinist) and Mme. Suzanne Roche (pianist). Among distinguished speakers were Professor Walker of Capetown University, H.E. Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, Mr. Jean Marin, vice-president of the Municipality of Paris, Père Fournier, S.J. and Professors de la Pradelle and Jauffret. His Excellency the Governor addressed the people of Mauritius on the evening of his arrival and Mr. C. G. Eastwood, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, gave a farewell talk at the conclusion of his visit to the Island. The Commissioner for India in Mauritius, Mr. Dharam Yash Dev, spoke twice during the year on the general programme as well as a number of times on the Indian-language transmission.

In September a radio questionnaire issued by the M.B.S. was answered by slightly over 50% of the licensed listeners—an unusually high return. The analysis of the replies received established that over 80% of listeners tune in regularly to the local station.

Plans for the reorganisation of the programme staff establishment were submitted to the Broadcasting Advisory Board and to the Government towards the end of the year. The purpose of this reorganisation is to make staffing arrangements more flexible so as to cope with the rapid increase in broadcasting services demanded by the steadily growing number of listeners.

The news branch of the M.B.S. was trained in touch typing in preparation for the change-over to automatic reception of Reuters and London Press Service news. Two Hellschreiber automatic machines had arrived by the end of the year and test transmissions are now being monitored for report to London. The news branch continues to take these services in morse, meanwhile, and to issue about 110 copies daily to the Press, Government Departments, Members of Council, and the Army.

GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES

Prior to 1939 each local body, viz., the Municipality of Port Louis and the Boards of Commissioners for Curepipe, Quatre Bornes and Beau Bassin—Rose Hill, maintained a small fire station. Expenditure on these stations was a charge on township funds and the only revenue derived was, apparently, a percentage of the total premium cashed by Insurance Companies within township limits. The agreement with the Insurance Companies stipulated that on no account was the Brigade authorised to turn out to incidents outside these limits.

When war broke out in 1939, it soon became evident that these unconnected services were not in a position to render efficient assistance in the event of an attack. Consequently, the Controller of the Passive Air Defence Service was empowered to co-ordinate the activities of all the Brigades to ensure adequate protection to the whole island. The Municipal Brigade was reinforced by a squad of Government men. Modern equipment and appliances were ordered from the United Kingdom to replace the defective outfits in commission. The amalgamation of all Brigades of the Colony under Government control took effect in September 1943. The Municipal Brigade was handed back on 30th June, 1947, and Government retained the four fire stations at Mahebourg, Curepipe, Quatre Bornes and Rose Hill.

Appliances

The strength of the mobile appliance on the 31st December, 1949, was as follows:

5 Fire Engines	...	...	One Merryweather and four converted lorries (Austin, Ford and Morris Commercial types).
8 Coventry Climax Trailer Pumps	...	...	Output 350/500 gallons per minute.
1 Drysdale Trailer Pump	...	...	Output 200/250 " " "
5 Large Dennis Trailer Pumps	...	...	Output 350/450 " " "
3 Tiny Dennis Trailer Pumps	...	...	Output 80/130 " " "
2 Cars	...	...	Austin and Ford types.
5 Towing Units	...	...	Bedford, Graham, Chevrolet, Buick and Fordson types.
1 Motor Cycle	...	...	Indian type.
5 Bicycles	...	...	—

One large Dennis Trailer Pump is posted at Le Réduit to protect the Governor's residence.

The standardisation and modernisation of the appliances and equipment are constantly receiving special care. Orders were placed on the Crown Agents for a supply of Foam Generators for oil fires, Carbon Tetrachloride and CO₂ Water Fire Extinguishers.

As new stations are opened, they will be provided with one Mobile Pump (with an output of 350/450 gallons per minute), one Tiny Dennis Trailer Pump, one Motor Car, two Bicycles and the necessary auxiliary fire fighting equipment such as stirrup pumps, fire extinguishers, etc.

Fire Fighting

The Government Service coped with 112 outbreaks of fire during the year. In the majority of cases, the Brigade was able either to put out the conflagrations or to prevent them from spreading to neighbouring properties. The most important fires were:

- (a) at Piton where the damages sustained were estimated to be about Rs. 27,000 ;
- (b) at Black River where a large grass fire involving an extent of about four miles was spreading rapidly under a strong wind. The Fire Brigade with the assistance of a Police squad, after about 15 hours of strenuous efforts, successfully put out the conflagration which was endangering the Police Station, the Church, Campements and nearby straw huts ;
- (c) at Mon Gout and Maison Blanche in Pamplemousses District where eleven straw huts, two cow sheds, the head watchman's hut and a fodder shed were destroyed by fire. The energetic action of the Brigade prevented sugarcane fields in the vicinity from burning ;
- (d) at Vacaos where great damage to Réunion Sugar Estate was avoided by the effective action of the Brigade in putting out a fire which had started in sugarcane trash inside the mill and was endangering its boilers ; and
- (e) at Rose Belle Sugar Estate where the labourers' camp went on fire.

The damages sustained may roughly be estimated to amount to Rs. 120,000—and the value of properties salvaged to about Rs. 1,046,000. The mileage covered by the appliances was 11,329 miles on all services.

Hydrants

Water is readily acknowledged as the cheapest and most abundant medium for combating fires and it will always be the only effective agent for putting out fires of considerable magnitude. Hydrants are therefore regularly tested and new ones placed gradually in conjunction with the Water Works Authorities.

Means of Communication

A direct telephone line was installed on 16th July, 1949, between Plaisance Aerodrome and Mahebourg Fire Station in connection with the fire protection of the Airport.

Fire Prevention and Other Services

During the year, picture houses, one entertainment hall and one vault for the storage of inflammable substances were inspected to ensure that they are adequately provided with fire fighting appliances for public safety.

The fire fighting appliances of Government Buildings are now being periodically examined to ensure that they are always readily available for emergencies.

At the request of the Curepipe Girl Guides, a course in fire fighting including the beating out of a grass fire, the blanketing of a small fire, the use of Pyrene Extinguishers, etc., was delivered on 20th December, 1949, by the Chief Officer assisted by a squad of Firemen.

Workshop

The Headquarters of the Executive Branch is at Curepipe where repairs to and maintenance of appliances, (other than minor works which are effected at their respective Stations) are undertaken.

During 1949, this section of the Department also converted a lorry into a Fire Engine. The new appliance was commissioned on 10th September, 1949, and attached to Mahebourg Fire Station.

First Aid

Members of the Fire Services were called upon to apply first aid treatment on the spot on two occasions:

- (a) at a fire which broke out at La Brasserie on 7th February, 1949, to a man who was scalded whilst removing furniture from a burning hut ;
- (b) to a fisherman who had been beaten into unconsciousness and severely wounded in the abdomen.

The service is being trained to have as many members as possible qualified and efficient to render first aid to the injured.

Fire Services Committee

The committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor in May 1948, to advise on certain matters arising out of the transfer of the Fire Brigades of the Township Boards to Government Service, submitted its report to Government in February 1949.

The problems laid before the Committee were contained in the following terms of reference:

- (a) Permanent transfer to Government Services of the personnel of the Boards or such of the personnel as the Chief Officer will retain ;
- (b) Assessing the value of the vehicles and equipment to be retained by Government; and the compensations payable to the Boards ;
- (c) Assessing the rental payable to the Boards for the Fire Stations and quarters which Government will occupy until the Brigade moves to buildings of its own ;
- (d) Repealing legislation in force ; approaching Insurance Companies and informing them of any decision taken, and providing funds for the payment of the compensation mentioned above ;
- (e) Encouraging Estates to make their own fire fighting arrangements.

The Committee's report is still under consideration.

It is to be regretted that no progress has been made during the year in connection with the construction of a Fire Station in the North. However, negotiations have been started for the acquisition of a suitable site in the vicinity of Piton village.

The total number of cases of fire attended to during 1949 was 112 as compared with 73 cases in 1948, whilst the total number of cases of fire reported by the Commissioner of Police for the years 1948 and 1949 were 387 and 339 respectively. The discrepancy is due to the fact that owners are reluctant to call for the Brigade until the fire has assumed dangerous proportions ; and this is specially so in the case of conflagrations outside township limits.

Chapter XI : Communications

SHIPPING

During the financial year ended 30th June, 1949, 207 vessels entered Port Louis harbour. This amounted to a total of 687,446 net register tons, an increase of 15 vessels and 112,451 net register tons over the preceding year. Of these 207 vessels, ships registered in the Colony entered 42 times, 131 vessels paid full harbour dues, and 34 were vessels paying reduced dues or exempted from dues.

The revenue from harbour and quay dues, including pilotage fees, light dues and other normal charges against shipping, amounted to Rs. 941,606, and the amount spent by Government on services to shipping amounted to Rs. 961,071.

The busiest month of the year was December 1948, when 24 vessels were handled inwards, involving a total of 88,053 net register tons.

Regular passenger services, dislocated during the war years, have not returned to normal, shipping companies not yet having suitable vessels available to resume them. Nevertheless, passenger services showed an improvement on the previous year.

Vessels of the following shipping lines made frequent visits to Port Louis:

The Royal Inter-Ocean Line (Dutch, ex-K.P.M.)	Passengers and Cargo
The Messageries Maritimes Line (French)	do.
The Natal Line (British)	do.
The Clan Line	do. Cargo
The Harrison Line	do.

Communication with the Mauritius Dependencies, Rodriguez, Diégo Garcia, Péros Banhos and the other 'Oil Islands,' remained irregular throughout the year. Services to these islands were provided by three small steamers registered in Mauritius and by one small sailing vessel.

RAILWAYS

The sugar production of the Colony reached the unprecedented figure of 416,000 tons this year. This increase in tonnage together with an acceleration in the daily rate of production of the factories made it very difficult again for the Railways to cope with the transport demands in consequence of the poor condition of its locomotives and rolling stock.

There has been a further fall in the number of passengers by rail whilst the cost of labour and materials has again increased.

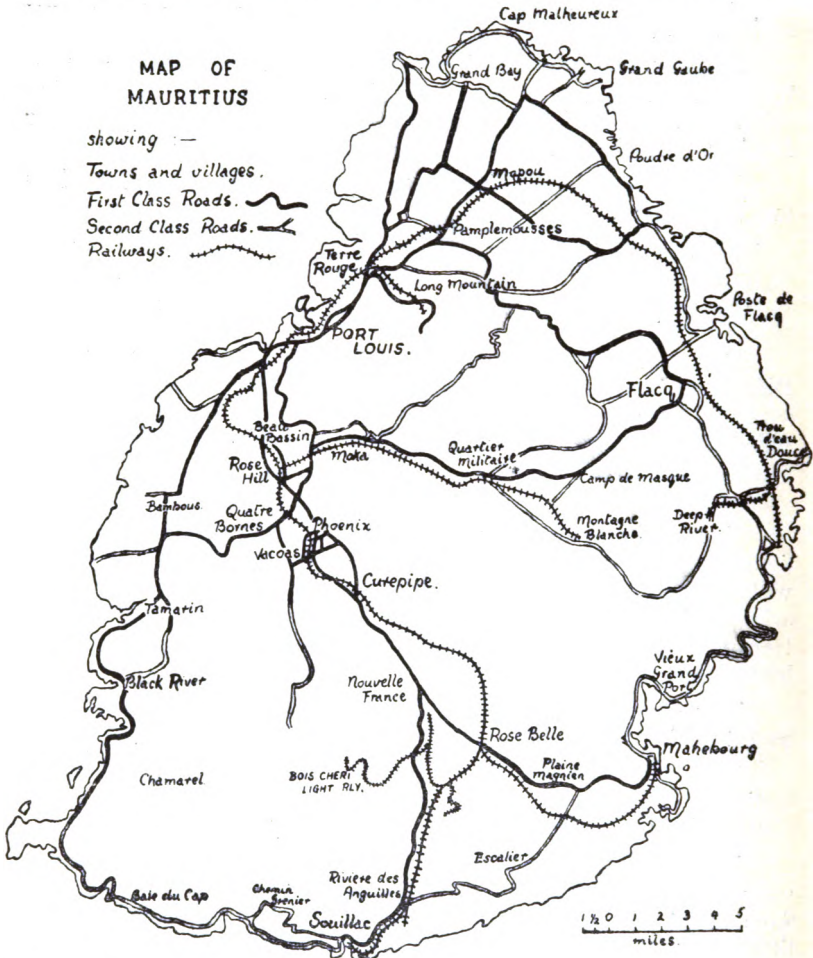
The only stoppage during the year was the transport strike lasting 2 days and which has already been referred to in Chapter VI of this Report.

Deep River Sugar Factory centralised on Beau Champ this year, thereby putting the Bel Air Branch Line out of use. In 1950 Sans Souci Factory will centralise on Union-Flacq leaving very little traffic on that part of the Moka line extending from Montagne Blanche to St. Pierre. It consequently will have to be pulled up.

A Transport (Control) Ordinance was passed during the year giving to the Railways a monopoly in the Black River District where an experimental Road Service will be started to collect data which will help Government to decide whether a Railway Line should be retained, or removed and replaced by a Road Service.

ROADS

Mauritius possesses what is on the whole a very satisfactory road system. There are 750 miles of public roads, one-third of which are bitumen treated and the rest metalled. There is, however, room for improvement, as many of these roads are too



narrow for fast moving transport to travel in safety. Blind corners are numerous owing to the prevalence of high growing sugarcane on each side of the roads ; towns and villages are populous and close together. The roads are further congested by slow moving goods transport vehicles and by numerous buses.

PASSENGER ROAD TRANSPORT

At the end of the year there were 4,380 motor vehicles in use in the island, compared with 3,107 in 1939 and 3,777 in 1948. These vehicles comprise:

	1939	1948	1949
Private Cars	1,939	2,226	2,521
Lorries	427	704	870
Taxi Cars	387	458	519
Buses	135	183	182
Motor Cycles	219	205	212
Tractors	—	—	76

In addition 204 vehicles of all types were Government owned in 1949.

Taxi cars for hire in Port Louis and in the principal towns are of modern type and kept in excellent condition as regards safety and cleanliness. The charges for hire (which may be made by telephone) are 35 cents per mile during the day and 40 cents during the night.

There is a good bus service between Port Louis, Vacoas and Curepipe, calling at the intermediary principal towns of Plaines Wilhems, and many satisfactory subsidiary lines of less importance (there are 30 approved bus routes in the Colony) which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the island. The fares are approximately 3 cents per mile.

Lorries are used for the transport of imported foodstuffs from Port Louis, the only commercial harbour, to other towns and villages, for the transport of sugar canes to the factories and of all other goods produced in the Colony, with the exception of sugar which, with heavy goods and imported fertilizers, is compulsorily effected by the Railway.

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:

- (i) Motor cycles Rs. 6 per H.P.
- (ii) Private cars Rs. 8 per H.P.
- (iii) (a) Taxi cars not exceeding 10 H.P. Rs. 108
- (b) for every additional H.P. Rs. 8 per H.P.
- (iv) (a) Motor Buses of not more than 10 H.P.
 having a seating capacity of not more than
 20 passengers Rs. 512
- (b) for every additional H.P. Rs. 8 per H.P.
- (v) (a) motor lorries not exceeding 10 H.P. Rs. 200
- (b) for every additional H.P. Rs. 8 per H.P.
- (c) per metric ton of maximum gross weight
 or fraction thereof Rs. 40

Public Service Vehicles and Goods Vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportionate rates. Licence duty in respect of motor cycles and private cars may be effected quarterly, half-yearly or yearly, at the owner's option.

Visitors' licences at the following rates are payable in respect of privately owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on a temporary visit to the Colony not exceeding three months:

Private cars =	Rs. 10 per month irrespective of Horse Power,
Motor Cycles =	Rs. 2 do. do.

No licence fee is chargeable on any privately owned car or motor cycle landed in the Colony for a short stay therein not exceeding one week in duration.

Petrol rationing was abolished with effect from the 1st July. The price of petrol has increased slightly during the year, the cost per gallon, exclusive of container, being Rs. 2.67, equivalent to 4 shillings approximately.

AIR

During 1949, two hundred and twenty aircraft landed at Plaisance Aerodrome. The passenger and mail service operated by Air France had to be suspended temporarily between January and March owing to a fresh outbreak of poliomyelitis in the Colony, but this service was resumed in April. The service operated by Skyways Ltd. between Mauritius and Nairobi (weekly) and Mauritius and Johannesburg (fortnightly) was discontinued in July.

The K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airlines being temporarily debarred from using their normal route from Amsterdam to Batavia developed an emergency route *via* Mauritius to Batavia which involved a non-stop flight of 3,462 miles across the Indian Ocean. This "hop" ranks as one of the world's longest regular non-stop flights. Between 16th January, 1949, and 15th July 1949, K.L.M. completed 67 outward and 63 inward flights. More than 1,250,000 aircraft miles were flown over this 9,600 mile route, and 1,902 passengers and 254,618 Kg. of mail, freight and baggage were carried. After 15th July, 1949 K.L.M. aircraft resumed their normal route.

Aerial Survey

The aerial survey of the island was carried out by a French aircraft of the "Institut Géographique National" through arrangements made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The aircraft landed at Plaisance Aerodrome on 17th August, 1949, and completed the aerial survey of the whole island on the 19th of August.

The aerial survey of Réunion island was also carried out on the same day and on 20th August, 1949, the aircraft returned to Madagascar.

Air Traffic

The following table gives details of the aircraft which landed at Plaisance Aerodrome during the year:

K.L.M.	136
Skyways	44
Air France	35
Suid Air	1
Aerial Survey	3
French Military Aircraft	1
	<hr/>
	220
	<hr/>

Refuelling

All these aircraft were refuelled in Mauritius. Their fuel intake for 1949 amounted to 642,190 gallons of aviation spirit and 6,853 gallons of aviation oil.

Passengers and goods movements

Passengers—inward, outward and in transit totalled 4,846 in 1949. The weight of mail and freight carried was respectively 10,447 kilos and 20,631 kilos incoming; 5,506 kilos and 6,354 kilos outgoing. All figures showed an increase over the 1948 totals.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The period under review was in general one of steady progress and expansion in almost all branches of the service. Two new postal agencies were opened; the total number of post offices and postal agencies at the end of the year being 37 and 40 respectively. Approval has been obtained for the opening of six additional postal agencies and for the conversion of one agency into a post office. As a rule a postal agency is opened whenever the population of a village or the aggregate population of two or more neighbouring hamlets is 2,000. This rule may be varied where special conditions exist, and a postal agency is sometimes approved for places which do not meet these requirements.

The delivery of correspondence by postmen at least twice a day was maintained in all urban areas and deliveries were provided in all rural areas except in outlying places where the small amount of correspondence does not yet warrant such a service.

Though stamp sales were lower than in the previous year they were nevertheless very substantial. The following postage stamp issues of 1948 continued to be on sale during 1949:

- (a) Issue commemorating the Silver Wedding of Their Majesties.
- (b) Issue commemorating the centenary of the first postage stamps issued in Mauritius.

Stamps issued in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union were placed on sale on the 10th October, 1949.

To supplement the railway mail service a motor mail service was introduced. Extended use will be made of motor mail services in the future.

The mail services with Rodriguez and other dependencies were maintained by the Mauritian line steamers which called at Rodriguez every three months and at Chagos Islands every six months.

Sea mail services to and from Europe and all other parts of the world improved ; sailings were more frequent. The average time taken in transit between Mauritius and the United Kingdom was 30 days.

The bi-weekly air mail service previously provided by Skyways and Air France was reduced to a weekly service when the Skyways service to Mauritius was discontinued in July 1949. The average transmission time for air correspondence for the United Kingdom is four days. There was a marked increase in the volume of air mails received and despatched during 1949.

Direct parcel mails with the United Kingdom were received and despatched on an average once monthly. A noticeable feature of the parcel mail for the United Kingdom was the number of parcels containing foodstuffs. The parcel post service extends to most places in the world.

There was an increase in the use of the inland Money Order Service. The foreign Money Order service was extended to most parts of the world and the Postal Order service to all Commonwealth countries. Considerable use was made of the Telegraph Money Order service. There was a notable increase in the trade charge Money Order service, that is, the Cash-on-delivery service.

The falling off in the use of the inland Telegraph service noted last year, has continued. This obviously is not a service of prime utility in a small island where the telephone service is available as an alternative. On the other hand, there was an increase in overseas telegram and radiotelegram traffic.

The telephone line to Chamarel which was damaged by the 1945 cyclone was restored. The number of radio licences issued on behalf of the Electricity and Telephones Department increased appreciably.

Towards the end of the year the vacant post of Postmaster General was filled by the appointment of an officer from the United Kingdom.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Overseas telecommunications are maintained by the Port Louis office of Cable and Wireless Ltd. The company has another cable station in the principal dependency of the Colony, Rodriguez.

The Government of Mauritius operates a wireless coast station which can transmit within a limited range to ships equipped with radio apparatus.

Radio telegrams may be handed in at any Telegraph Office on the island for transmission.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The expansion of existing departments, the creation of new ones and the greater volume of work needed by the new Legislative Council made in 1949 a very busy year for the Government Printing Office. For the first time, also, the Office undertook the printing of the Annual Report on the Colony. Over 1,000 copies were despatched to London and local sales were most encouraging.

The following figures give some indication of the large amount of work undertaken:

Total impressions	...	...	...	...	18,576,300
Foolscap Folio	...	...	...	...	3,281
Royal 8 vo.	} set and printed	...	...	...	2,965
General Jobs		...	...	...	104
Miscellaneous binding works	...	...	...	...	15,091,314
Government Gazettes	...	...	...	...	94
No. of reports printed	...	...	...	...	63

Chapter XII : Cultural and Scientific Organizations

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

The project for the foundation of an Institute in Mauritius first took shape in 1880 when an ordinance was passed with the active support of the Governor, Sir George Bowen, "to establish and incorporate a Public Institute, a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purpose of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Art, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people."

The first stone of the present building was laid by Sir George Bowen, on the 23rd November, 1880 and the natural history collections bequeathed to the Colony by Julien Desjardins were transferred to the new building from the old Royal College in 1885. The Public Library was opened in 1903 following the munificent bequest of the Sir Virgile Naz library which forms the nucleus of the present collections.

To-day, the Institute comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum and an Art Gallery ; in addition the following Scientific Societies are incorporated with the Institute: *Royal Society of Arts and Sciences*, the *Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles*, the *Société Médicale* and the *Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens*.

The administration of the Institute is assisted by a Board of Directors appointed annually by the Governor and including three members appointed on the recommendation of the incorporated societies. A library committee and a museum committee are set up each year to manage the affairs of the Library and Museum respectively.

The Museum is open to the public admission free from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on Sundays and public holidays, and is visited during the course of the year by over 70,000 people.

The Public Library

The stock comprises more than 32,000 volumes about equally divided between French and English. The library has a large and valuable collection of Mauritiana and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene Islands and neighbouring regions. More than seventy-five periodicals are received annually. The library is free to readers, but a deposit of Rs. 10 is required from borrowers. The valuable support of the British Council has resulted in important accessions to the library from time to time and it is owing to the Council's generosity that it has been possible to make much needed additions to the periodicals, both technical and general.

The Natural History Museum

The museum is local in character and every effort is being made to assemble as complete material as possible of the fauna and flora of the Mascarene Islands and the surrounding ocean. A reserve collection is being gradually built up for research workers. The exhibited sections are being devised on educational and ecological principles.

In the avian section there are two skeletons of the Dodo, one of the Solitaire from Rodriguez, and one of the flightless Red Hen (*Aphanapteryx*) as well as a complete collection of the endemic birds of Mauritius, including the extinct Dutch Pigeon (*Alectroenas nitidissima*).

A special case is devoted to the fauna of Round Island, a small islet 12 miles north of Mauritius.

There are now on view advanced collections of crustacea, echinodermata and mollusca, both land and marine. A collection of tropical fish, many painted in their natural colours, is also of interest.

The botanical section includes a herbarium of over 4,000 sheets of specimens from Mauritius, Rodriguez and some of the smaller Indian Ocean islands. Native and exotic timber specimens are displayed and a special section is devoted to diseases and pests of economic plants.

Maritime and Historical Museum

A subsidiary museum also related to local events has been arranged in the historic house at Mahebourg where the two wounded commanders of the British and French navies were received during the naval battle of Grand Port in 1810. This museum will be opened to visitors shortly.

Research

The richness and variety of marine life in the surrounding seas together with the very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora present excellent opportunities for research in pure economic and marine biology, and the collections of the museum form a valuable basis for investigation in these fields.

In recent years research work in conjunction with institutions and workers overseas has continued to develop, mainly on marine and land mollusca, crustaceans, insects and reptiles ; investigations on the systematics and ecology of the vegetation of Mauritius are in progress.

Publications

The Mauritius Institute publishes an annual report and a Bulletin devoted to original papers on the fauna and flora of the Mascarenes region to which many experts working in Institutions overseas have contributed. The first part was published in 1936, Volume II, Part V and Volume III, Part I, were issued during 1949. Copies of the parts still in print may be obtained on application to the Director, Mauritius Institute, Port Louis.

SOCIETIES INCORPORATED WITH THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius*. This Society which was founded in 1829 under the title of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle*, was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1847. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history ; science and art lectures are delivered by its members and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. A catalogue of the library which contains many rare and valuable books on natural history was published in 1945. Annual Transactions are published containing the proceedings and papers read before the Society.

(2) *Société Médicale de l'Île Maurice*. The Society was founded in 1880 and includes among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony.

(3) *Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles*. Formerly known as the *Société des Chimistes*, the Society has been recently re-organised and broadened by the inclusion of all engineers and technicians engaged in the sugar industry.

The Society is a technical body studying all questions relating to the growth of sugarcane and the manufacture of cane sugar. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

(4) *Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens*. Founded in 1938 with the object of encouraging the publication of literary works, of establishing contact with similar institutions overseas and of maintaining unity among Mauritian writers. This Society was incorporated with the Institute in 1949.

THE MAURITIUS ARCHIVES

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of this colony, dating, in point of fact, from the early years of the French settlement, but also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Réunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770 which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulations for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment here in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* which for a long time supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the British conquest the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to England, they were handed over to the British authorities in an almost complete state, comparatively few of the records being retained by the French government.

From 1922 until the end of 1949 the Archives have been attached to the Registrar General's Department. On the 1st January, 1950, the Archives again become an independent organization as one section of the Central Administration.

The Archives Office to-day is divided into the following sections:

- (a) *Administrative section* including two distinct record groups: (1) those of the old French administration dating from 1721, of which the most valuable are those of the republican Colonial Assemblies (1790-1803) and those relative to naval history, (2) those of the British administration from 1810 to 1860; these include the Secretariat files and the records of a few departments. It is proposed to take over all departmental records down to 1902, to which date public access to official records was extended recently by the Secretary of State, but this cannot be done until an extension of accommodation is provided.
- (b) *Domainial or Land section* including the archives of the former Land Court (1767-1832), applications for grants of land, title-deeds of concessions and their grants of land, shooting and fishing leases, documents concerning Crown Lands, mountain reserves, canals and rivers, notarial deeds, and memoranda of survey drawn up by land-surveyors. The last two are deposited under ordinances dating from the 18th century. Most of the records in this section date from the early years of the French settlement in Mauritius.
- (c) *Judicial section* including (1) records of the old French courts of which there are quite a number, (2) those of the British courts which replaced them after 1810. These records are of great interest to the lawyer and the student of history.
- (d) *Civil status section* including duplicate civil status registers for Port Louis from 1721 onwards and for the rural districts from 1721 to 1830. The original registers for Port Louis are kept in the Central Civil-Status Office and those for the rural districts of later date than 1830 in the

district Magistracies. This section also includes documents relative to slaves previous to the abolition of slavery, registers of marriages of Indian immigrants and census returns.

- (e) *Printed records section* including five classes of printed matter (1) government publications, (2) copies of all books and periodicals printed in Mauritius, regularly deposited in the Archives Office since 1898. (3) files of local newspapers from 1837 onwards, (4) a collection of early Mauritian imprints issued between 1768 and 1810, (5) a small reference library which is as yet in the growing stage. The set of government publications is probably the most important of its kind in Mauritius ; so is the collection of newspapers. The collection of early imprints, which was started quite recently, is unique and of great imports from the historical as well as from the bibliographical point of view.
- (f) *Cartographic section* including maps, plans and diagrams either deposited under existing ordinances or transferred from the Survey Office, the Military Department and other departments. Of the old *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* little is left now, unfortunately.
- (g) *Photographic section*, which is a quite recent addition. It includes a modern photostat equipment which is used for (1) making replicas for permanent preservation of documents which are beyond repair. (2) making copies for official use by other departments, (3) supplying copies to the public, (4) building up a collection of pictorial records, (5) running an exchange service with archival centres elsewhere.

During 1949 the reclassification of the Judicial section was begun, and the classification of notarial deeds prior to 1810 was completed. Extensive repairs and improvements were made to the building housing the Archives and to the filing cabinets, presses and other equipment. In the photographic section 5,32 feet of photostats were produced for the Office, and 188 additions were made to the Pictorial Records collection. Photostats were also exchanged with a few archival centres abroad, and were made available on sale to the public. The British Museum made a gift of early Mauritian newspapers and sets of early imprints were received from the Central African Archives, Rhodesia, the South African Library, Capetown and the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY

The Royal Alfred Observatory, in latitude $20^{\circ}5'39''$ S., and longitude $3\text{h. }50\text{m. }12.6\text{s. E.}$, is situated about three miles from the west coast on a plain in the northern half of the Island. The various buildings stand in eleven acres of Crown Land. The reference mark at the entrance of the main building is 178 feet above mean sea level.

From west-south-west through west to north there is a more or less uninterrupted view of the sea, and from north through east to south-east the ground generally rises to Mount Piton, the summit of which is about four miles to the east-south-east and is 197 feet above mean sea level. Between south-east and south-west there stands a chain of mountains, the highest peak of which, Pieterboth, is about six miles almost due south and has an altitude of 2,690 feet. The nearest extremities of two spurs which run north and north-west from Pieterboth are at a distance of three to four miles and have an elevation of 560 feet.

The Observatory is equipped as a first-order meteorological and magnetic station. Recording of atmospheric electrical potential was discontinued in 1941. Ten years' records having been obtained, it is not proposed to resume recording for the time being.

The administrative and forecasting centre of the Observatory Department and a second-order meteorological station are situated at Vacoas, 1393 feet above mean sea level. In addition, observations are received from a third-order station at the Nursery Gardens, Curepipe, and rainfall returns from about 85 places in the Island. All rainfall stations are now being asked to submit their returns to the Observatory, which will bring the number up to almost 200.

A second-order weather reporting station is maintained in the island of Rodriguez, the Station being in latitude $19^{\circ}41'$ S., longitude $63^{\circ}27'$ E., at 140 feet above mean sea level. The weather reporting station at Diégo Garcia, latitude $07^{\circ}14'$ S., longitude $72^{\circ}26'$ E., which was re-opened in February 1947, was in operation throughout the year.

The daily weather maps cover, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean north of latitude 50°S. In addition to the collective messages from meteorological services of other countries and the reports of Mauritius and its Dependencies, about 400 reports a month were received from ships.

Meteorological reports are transmitted by wireless for the use of ships and the meteorological services of other countries, and cyclone warnings for local use are issued when necessary, in accordance with Government regulations.

The Observatory took over completely the administration of the meteorological station at Plaisance Aerodrome and the meteorological and wireless stations at St. Brandon and Agaléga. The plans to improve these stations, to change the part-time stations at Diégo Garcin and Rodriguez to full-time ones and to reorganize and extend the meteorological work of the department were submitted in March. These have been accepted and now only await final approval from the Secretary of State. This reorganization had become essential in order that co-operation with other services and meteorological security for aircraft and ships should be brought up to the recognised international standard.

Early in the year the Royal Dutch Air Lines decided that their service between Holland and Indonesia would come *via* Mauritius, as the normal route through India was closed. The first aircraft arrived in Mauritius on 28th January and the last one left on 20th July. There were in all nearly 70 round trips. Throughout this period the small staff of the Observatory department had to work under very severe pressure. The flight between Mauritius and Djakarta was a particularly difficult one to deal with. Over 3,000 miles, it was at the time the longest non-stop regular flight in the world and there was no alternate landing place on or near the route, though a crash landing might have been possible at Cocos Keeling Island. The only meteorological information available over the stretch of some 2,000 miles between Rodriguez and Cocos Keeling Island was very occasional reports from ships. To complicate the position further, most of the period during which this service operated fell in the season for tropical cyclones and it is fortunate that cyclonic activity was limited. To do something towards filling this dangerous gap the Royal Dutch Air Lines arranged for a stationary weather ship mid-way between the two islands. This ship, the "Aermas" reached this position on 24th May and remained there until 20th July.

Skyways Ltd. (East Africa) continued their weekly service between Nairobi and Mauritius and their fortnightly one between Mauritius and Johannesburg up to 16th July when they ceased to operate these routes. No delays occurred through tropical cyclones but on several occasions considerable deviations from direct route had to be made to avoid them.

From 11th July to 18th August special daily forecasts were issued to the Madagascar Meteorological Service for a French aircraft that was waiting for favourable cloud conditions to come to Mauritius to do a photographic survey of the island. The conditions required were one-eighth or less of the sky covered with low or medium cloud over the whole island. Such conditions occur very seldom during daylight hours over the central plateau. The survey was successfully carried out on the morning of 18th August.

From April to October a summary of the weather during the week is despatched every week to the Director-General of India Observatories in connection with monsoon predictions. Occasional telegrams are sent to the Directors of the Rhodesian and the Indonesian Meteorological Services for their long-range rainfall forecasts. Ships and other synoptic reports were supplied to the United States Weather Bureau and the Royal Naval Weather Station, Simonstown, South Africa. Magnetic data were sent to the Department of "Terrestrial Magnetism," U.S.A. and to the Director, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S.A. The number of requests for information locally and from abroad has been exceptionally large.

HISTORICAL, LITERARY AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES

Société de l'Histoire de l'Île Maurice. This Society was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by collecting documents on local history, publishing historical works, and organising historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-four parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes in the schools to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It corresponds and exchanges publications with similar institutions overseas and collects material from the Archives at the Cape, The Hague, Batavia, Paris, London and Lisbon.

In 1933 the Society took part in the Adrien d'Epinay Centenary Celebrations; in 1942 a monument was erected by it to commemorate the explorer Matthew Flinders who had been a prisoner for seven years in Mauritius. In 1944 it organised a Paul and Virginia bi-centenary exhibition in the Mauritius Institute.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis. The principal object of this Society is to unite all those interested in French culture and ideals. Its principal aim is to encourage among the Mauritian people the study and diffusion of the French language and literature, by means of annual competitions and public lectures. A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

Alliance Française. The local branch of the *Alliance Française* in Port Louis, Mauritius, was founded in 1884 with the object of fostering French culture by the introduction of French courses in schools, conducting annual examinations and organising meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

The Mauritius Dramatic Club. Since the middle of 1946 there has been a marked revival of amateur dramatic activities in Mauritius, due mainly to the fortunate chance of having among the English community a number of people experienced in acting, stage management and the presentation of plays. The Mauritius Dramatic Club, founded 50 years ago and which had been active in pre-war days, virtually ceased to exist during the war years. By the end of 1949 its active membership totalled 138. The Club staged a pantomime, *Aladdin*, in January with a cast of 36. Later in the year three straight plays were produced and five play-readings were held for members. The sub-committee for broadcasting presented five plays from the studios of the M.B.S.

The Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade. Founded in 1939 under the patronage of His Eminence Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, the Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade is one of the most active youth organizations in the Colony and young Muslims of all classes are encouraged to join the movement.

The Brigade organizes lectures, debates and sports, and an annual bulletin is published. This year the Brigades' patron made a visit lasting several weeks to the Island.

The Vacoas House of Debaters. This Association is a literary society which takes special interest in youth education and has started a scholarship fund, authorised by Government, to assist pupils of the Royal College and Royal College School.

Fortnightly meetings are held for lectures, debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

The Indian League of Mauritius. The Indian League of Mauritius was founded under the name of the Indian Students Association. The principal objects of the League are to foster friendship and brotherhood among its members and to work for

the social betterment of the Indian community. The League organizes debates, lectures and sports, publishes a quarterly magazine, and gives plays in English, French and Hindustani.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association. The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of English language and literature and to assist its members in obtaining facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sadha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad. These societies were established with the object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in schools. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad is maintained for conducting external examinations in Higher Hindi in Mauritius.

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch. A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Of the 88 registered practitioners in the Colony, 56 are now members of the local branch. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those with French qualifications. The Branch is thus representative of the medical profession in the island. Close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession, and the advice of the Branch has been frequently sought by Government in connection with Development and Welfare and other needs of the community. During 1949 the B.M.A. (Mauritius branch) came out strongly in favour of the Hamlin scheme for the water borne disposal of the sewage of Upper Plaines Wilhems.

Carrefour Mauricien. This new cultural society, under the Presidency of Mr. Robert Edward Hart, O.B.E., the leading Mauritian man of letters, was founded in 1949 to promote love, goodwill and better understanding among the various communities of Mauritius and to further the cultural and spiritual advancement of the Mauritian community. Its first public meeting was held at Rose Hill on 30th November, 1949, when Mr. Robert-Edward Hart delivered a lecture on "*Paul et Virginie—relu à l'Île Maurice.*"

PART III

Chapter I : Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is a small island of about 720 square miles situated in the Indian Ocean between $19^{\circ}58'$ and $20^{\circ}32'$ South Latitude, and the meridians of $57^{\circ}17'$ and $57^{\circ}46'$ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by fringing reef. The northern part of the island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the Central Plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow, and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius, and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes in Mauritius, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Four reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes and work on a fifth began in the second half of 1949.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated places in the world. Its 720 square miles carry a population of 472,000 i.e., about 655 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an

agricultural country. The district of Plaines Wilhems in the central plateau, has a population density of over 1,000 to the square mile.

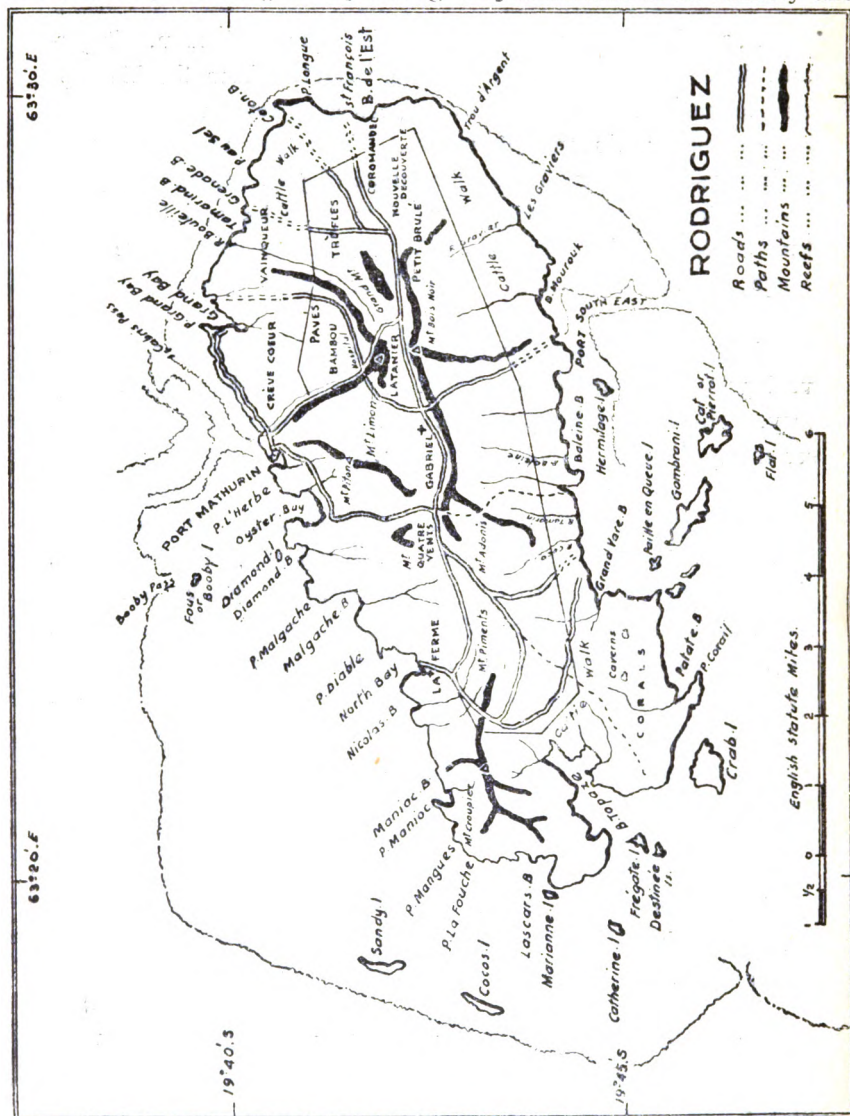
The chief industry of the island is sugar production. Sugar-cane-fields may be seen all over the island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn regularly intersected by silver-grey ribbons of roads. There are small areas of indigenous forests but large plantations of pine are made by the Forest Department to supply wood to factories and to provide timber for building purposes. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina (" filaos ") or coconut trees.

Mauritius is well supplied with road communications. Travelling even to the remotest part of the island is comparatively easy. There is a railway service operating 164 miles of main and secondary lines and numerous bus services.

The Colony, being almost in the centre of the Indian Ocean, is a comparatively isolated place. Strategically, it is, however, situated almost at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies with South Africa. Before the war, steamers en route from the Far East to South Africa called regularly at Mauritius as did the French ships bound for the neighbouring French colony of Réunion so that there was also a regular service with East African ports. During the war a modern air port was built at Plaisance in the southern part of the island. There is at present an air service linking Mauritius with London and Paris. Survey flights in connection with a trans-ocean air service between South Africa and Australia *via* Mauritius were carried out in 1948, but no progress was made on this project during 1949.

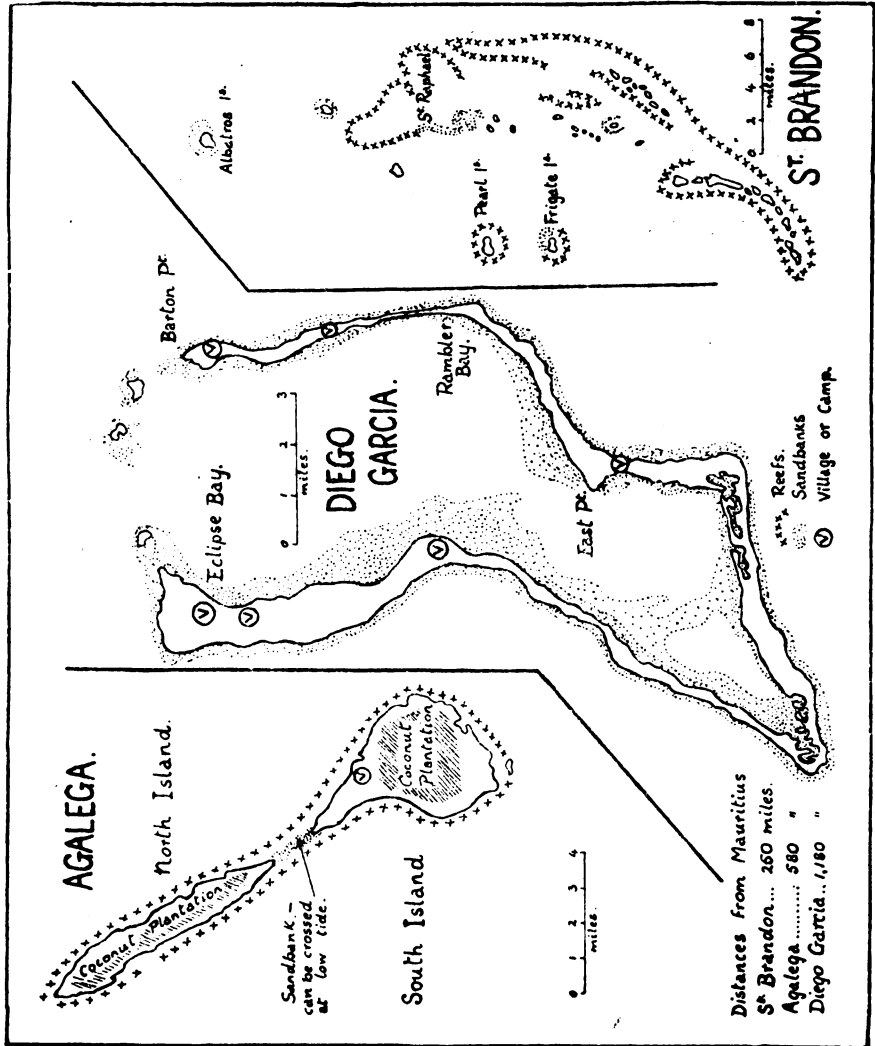
The Colony of Mauritius has a number of island dependencies scattered over the Indian Ocean. These are Rodriguez 350 miles to the east, Chagos Archipelago 1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon, Agaléga 580 miles and Cargados Carajos 250 miles north of Mauritius.

Rodriguez the principal dependency, is a volcanic mountain mass surrounded by a coral reef. This small Island $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles long by $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad, carries a population of over 15,000 fishermen and small cultivators. Soil erosion in Rodriguez is causing the authorities some anxiety and



efforts are being made to encourage contour planting and the development of co-operative societies which will inculcate better methods of agriculture. Rodriguez is under the charge of a resident Magistrate, aided by officers of the police, health and Agricultural departments. During 1949 the Governor paid a visit to Rodriguez.

Chagos consists of five groups of coral islands the biggest of which is Diégo Garcia. This horseshoe ribbon of land lying just above sea-level surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diégo was of strategic importance during the recent world war.



Agalega really consists of two small islands separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos, usually referred to by the name of the principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has therefore a maritime climate, tropical-maritime during summer and sub-tropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude in a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer nor particularly low ones in winter and, except in localities at or near sea-level and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly when there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet in the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are really beautiful and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The island is in the cyclonic region of the Indian Ocean, and the cyclone season, which coincides with the summer season, begin in November and ends in May. These cyclones often cause damage to plantations and buildings, but equally often are beneficial to the canefields because of the rain they bring. Cyclones are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

SEASONS

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons ; summer from November to April and winter from May to October, though April to June and September can be looked upon as transitional periods, during which, incidentally, the weather is wellnigh perfect.

RAINFALL

The average annual rainfall at or near sea-level is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year. The main source of the rain is tropical cyclones. When the centre of one passes over or close to the island the rainfall is very heavy, particularly in the case of a slowly moving cyclone. For example, in the cyclone of March, 1931, one locality recorded over 36 inches in 24 hours and 130 inches for the month.

The other important source of summer rainfall is instability showers ("convectonal" rain) falling during the early afternoon in calm or nearly calm weather. These showers are of fairly short duration but are frequently extremely heavy.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature produced by lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central highground area.

True droughts are rare except near sea-level, but very large deficiencies occur from time to time, particularly in summer months whenever there is little or no cyclone activity in this part of the South Indian Ocean.

TEMPERATURE

The mean temperature varies from 74° F. at sea-level to 67° F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11° F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94.8° F. and 49.9° F. respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44.9° F. The mean daily range is 13.5° F.

HUMIDITY

The mean relative humidity increases from 70% at sea-level to nearly 90% at 1,850 feet. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory is 33%. The mean daily range varies from 19% in April to 31% in November at 180 feet.

SUNSHINE

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7.8 at 180 feet and 7.0 at 1,400 feet.

WINDS

During the winter months, with only brief occasional interruptions due to distant extra tropical depressions, the island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. From time to time they become fairly strong for a day or two but never reach gale force.

In summer the average direction of the trades becomes easterly and of light to moderate force, and interruptions are much more frequent. When they are due to depressions to the south the winds become very light, mainly north-west to north. When due to tropical cyclones gales from any direction may be experienced.

TROPICAL CYCLONES

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May, with the greatest frequency of occurrence in January and February. They have been known to affect Mauritius slightly on rare occasions in September and October.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, very severe cyclones have been rare, but, as in 1945, it is possible for the island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks.

The highest average wind velocity so far recorded has been about 90 miles per hour, with peak velocities of 130 miles per hour. The winds near the centre are, however, extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds considerably to the destruction caused.

Cyclonic activity during 1949 in the S. Indian Ocean was well below the average. Between January and April in the S. Indian Ocean there were three cyclones, one of considerable intensity and two of moderate intensity and four cyclonic depressions which did not develop tropical cyclone intensity.

One cyclone passed just to the east of St. Brandon on 6th January giving a maximum average wind velocity of 45 m.p.h. On the 8th it passed 100 miles to the east of Mauritius moving S.S.E. and producing gusts of the order of 40 to 45 m.p.h. in Mauritius.

This was the only cyclone during the year that affected Mauritius or any of the Dependencies ; there was, as far as is yet known, no cyclone activity during the latter part of 1949, which is the beginning of the cyclone season for 1949-50.

Chapter II : History

The island of Mauritius was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages ; and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The island appears on many sixteenth-century maps with the Portuguese name of Cerné or Cirné.

Dutch sailors visited it first in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau ; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food, and cargoes of ebony wood. An English trading company planned to occupy the island, but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (adults, children and slaves all counted) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing, growing food crops and some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius and often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. Prior to the Dutch occupation the island was uninhabited. The slaves they introduced were taken from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the island and called it " Ile de France," but seem not to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British navy searching for the pirates were almost the only visitors to the deserted island.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company and from 1767 to 1810 by officials appointed by the French Government, apart from the brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the French Revolution. The population had grown to almost one thousand (two hundred of them Europeans) in 1735, and from the Governorship of the great Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards it increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a

strong, prosperous and well populated Colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Port Louis, the capital, towards the end of the Company's rule of the island was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as possible. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, War of American Independence), the island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of ambitious French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions (notably that of Bougainville), and was described by many French travellers (of which the best known is *Bernardin de Saint Pierre*, author of *Paul et Virginie*).

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797 (including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa). During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interests against the *jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organized very successful and damaging raids on English commerce whenever England and France were at war. These raids continued while Decaen (one of Napoleon's generals) was governor, until in 1810 a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the island. Bourbon and Rodriguez were also occupied by the British in 1810, but by the Treaty of Paris in 1814 Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodriguez and Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in together with a large garrison of several regiments. The garrison was gradually reduced by 1870 to half a battalion ; and after 1914 still further. During the recent war the garrison was greatly augmented by troops of the King's African Rifles and detachments of British gunners and engineers of the Royal Navy Air Force. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment. After 1825 the island flourished, especially through sugar exported to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to

84,000 tons in the decade 1823-33. During these early years the English Government's suppression of the slave trade and then its plans to free the slaves were fiercely opposed in Mauritius until two million pounds sterling were paid to slave owners in compensation for the loss of their slaves. New labourers were brought in from India instead to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius. After 1880 far fewer immigrant labourers were brought in, and the census of 1944 showed that the population had in the last eighty years increased but not greatly altered racially ; 265,000 Indo-Mauritians out of a total of 419,000.

Immigrant labourers, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties all aiding, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and this year reached the record figure of 415,000 tons. For the sake of sugar, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoirs and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First-rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and normally neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally, and more was imported, especially rice from India. This became the staple food of the population and so remained, except when in the 1939-45 war rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar after the 1914-18 war, various minor industries, including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloë-fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history concerns the cyclones, epidemics and crop pests which from time to time have upset its economy. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria, which caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone in 1867 and the mass-migration of thousands, including almost all the fairly well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1945 was a town of over 20,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 120,000 in

1944. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed ; the epidemic of surra in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways ; bubonic plague in 1899 ; the " *Phytalus Smithi* " beetle which was in 1911 found to be attacking the sugarcane ; the 1919 epidemic of influenza ; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts ; finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1945 ; these misfortunes are woven into the pattern of the island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was, after long discussion, improved in the eighteen-nineties. Sir Ronald Ross's visit in 1908 led to useful anti-malarial works during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893-95), La Ferme (1918), and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921, the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved, and the port itself was somewhat modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Prior to 1937, government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island, and on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and within ten years had almost doubled government revenue.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the island had at intervals to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892 and again in 1908, when there was a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham sent out from England ; again in 1930, when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut down ; and in 1945, in consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

During the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, many Mauritians went overseas to serve in the armed forces. During the first war Mauritius suffered very little, goods not becoming scarce for some years ; but in the second war food ran very short and at one time, in 1942, a Japanese attack, as a sideshow to an occupation of Madagascar, was regarded as inevitable. Later in the war the garrison was reinforced with African troops ; the harbour of Grand Port after years of oblivion was used as an auxiliary naval base and a permanent aerodrome was built near Mahebourg. The civil service, always numerous in Mauritius, expanded still further during the war years to meet the need to control an increasingly

large sphere of human activities ; permits for exports and imports, requisitioning of houses and other property, conscription for military service, rationing of various foods and commodities, fixing of retail prices, and so on.

In 1948 Mauritius took a step nearer that self-government which it momentarily enjoyed in the days of the French Revolution. It has planned a corresponding advance in the economic and social welfare spheres. The island is at a turning point in its comparatively brief history, and whether it uses or misuses the opportunities, is for itself to decide.

Chapter III : Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council including unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landowners and principal merchants of the Colony ; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the people ; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who were to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members were allowed a free vote on all occasions.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing unofficial members to the Council was revised.

Debates in the Legislative Council may be either in English or French. The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the terms of the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to June 1948. This long extension was due first of all to the war and subsequently to the delays in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution which had

been promised to the Colony. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the Constitution had ended in virtual stalemate. In 1947 the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ripe for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible abuse, certain safeguards were suggested. But within these limitations the widest possible measure of enfranchisement on the basis of a simple literacy requirement was recommended by the Governor.

His recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 9th December, 1947. General elections were held on 9th and 10th August, 1948, and the new Council met on the 1st September.

According to the terms of the new Constitution, British subjects, male and female, of 21 years of age or upwards who have been ordinarily and *bona fide* resident in the Colony for a period of 2 years preceding an election, and:

- (a) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer ; or
- (b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as exservicemen discharged with certificate of satisfactory service ; or
- (c) have been for 6 months previous to the date of registration owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district ;

are entitled to vote unless debarred under the specific disqualifications listed in section 17 of the Order in Council. This section debars aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those " disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections."

The Legislative Council is now composed of 3 *ex-officio*, 12 nominated unofficial members and 19 elected members under the presidency of the Governor. The Executive Council consists of 3 *ex-officio* members (the Colonial Secretary, Financial Secretary and Procureur General) and 4 appointed members. These four, members of Legislative Council, are elected by their fellow-members. The Royal Instructions leave the door open for the appointment of other members to Executive Council, but this power has not yet been exercised. The tenure of office of appointed members is for three years.

There has been a regrouping of electoral districts under the new Order in Council. Plaines Wilhems and Black River are joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart, Moka—Flacq and Grand Port—Savanne each return three members, and the capital constituency of Port Louis has four members because of its dense population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution, the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December 1947 was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the new Constitution is six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 elections.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary who is also the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, while the Financial Secretary advises on financial policy.

A start in local government was made in October 1946 when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May 1947, a second one was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948.

The rural part of Plaines Wilhems and the underpopulated district of Black River still remain outside the district administration and it has not yet been decided whether to include them by the appointment of a fourth Civil Commissioner or by a regrouping of the districts under the existing Commissioners.

The forty village councils constituted in 1947 have now grown to 80. They have been allowed full freedom in drawing up their programmes of work and it is gratifying to note that their projects have on the whole been eminently practical and useful. They are working for the public good in such matters as the division and allocation of Crown Lands for foodcrop cultivation, the control over the supply and price of fish, firewood and timber. A few councils have developed very rapidly indeed and have been given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With the pump-priming funds provided by the central administration, councils have gone ahead with road repairs and the construction of bridges, markets, water-supplies, latrines and primary school buildings. But many village councils are still struggling to find their feet, and much of the time of the Civil Commissioners is occupied in visiting them and discussing their affairs on the spot. In this way the machinery of local government is being slowly built up by experimentation and the sharing of experience gained.

It is hoped in 1950 to grant legal recognition to village councils and provide them with sufficient powers to enable them to develop satisfactorily as true local government bodies.

The larger urban areas of Mauritius have had for many years their own local government organizations. The capital, Port Louis is administered by a Municipality originally constituted under Ordinance 16 of 1849, completely revised by Ordinance 23 of 1903. The first annual elections were held in 1850 when eighteen Councillors were returned for the town as a whole. The number of registered electors on the 31st December, 1948, was 3,485.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by Council subject to confirmation by the Governor.

Four towns of Plaines Wilhems District are administered by boards of Commissioners established and constituted as follows:

Curepipe	...	...	Ordinance No. 12 of 1889	...	Chairman and five members
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill			Ordinance No. 31 of 1895	...	Chairman and seven members
Quatre Bornes	...	...	Ordinance No. 32 of 1895	...	Chairman and five members

All the members are nominated annually by the Governor.

Mr. Swinden, an expert on local government, visited Mauritius in 1945, as Chairman of a Commission to enquire into conditions of pay and service of the Mauritius Civil Service. He was also asked to investigate and report on local government. His report which deals with the Municipality of Port Louis, the township boards and rural government was referred to a Select Committee by the Governor in April 1946. The select Committee's report was submitted in April 1947, and a debate on it was begun in July, adjourned until October and again adjourned until the Governor's return to the Colony.

No further progress was made during 1948 with the revision of the Constitutions of local government bodies. In March 1949, a full-dress debate began in Legislative Council on a motion presented by an elected member asking that complete adult suffrage be granted to electors to these bodies. Council ultimately recommended that the franchise and constitution of the Municipality and Township Boards should be the same as for the Legislative Council, that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Boards should be elected and the remainder nominated by the elected members. It did not prove possible to present the enabling legislation sufficiently early in the year to allow the elections under the new Constitution to take place in December 1949. These elections have accordingly been postponed until the latter part of 1950.

The machinery for the administration of justice has been dealt with in Chapter 9 of this report, to which reference is invited. It only remains to add that the judiciary is almost completely a local preserve. All the law and judicial officers, with the exception of one Puisne Judge, are at present Mauritian born.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Central Administration was strengthened in 1947 by the addition of a Public Relations branch as part of the permanent machinery of Government. Public Relations in Mauritius had begun as early as 1942 when an Education Officer was seconded for this purpose to the war-time Censorship and Information Department. Shortly after the conclusion of hostilities the decision was taken to retain the purely public relations aspects of the department and to separate them as speedily as possible from the propaganda activities of the Information Office. The Officer seconded for Public Relations work visited the United Kingdom in 1946 and had conversations with the Information Department of the Colonial Office, the Central Office of Information, British Council, British Broadcasting Corporation and the other organizations concerned with publicity matters. He returned to the Colony in February 1947, and assumed control of the Public Relations Office.

This new department consists of a head office in Port Louis, concerned with the preparation and issue of local government publicity and with the distribution of publicity material received from Great Britain and elsewhere. Its functions are twofold—to interpret the Government to the people and the people to the Government. It has also the further responsibility of publicising Mauritius to the outside world and of increasing local knowledge about and understanding of Great Britain and the other territories that make up the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Close relations are maintained between the Public Relations Office and the local press. The latter, which is free to accept or refuse any material sent to it by the Public Relations Office, does in fact provide space generously for official communiqués. About two-thirds of these are paid for and one-third published free of charge. The office also distributes films to the local commercial cinemas and maintains a steady flow of books, periodicals and pamphlets to libraries, clubs, village councils and similar organisations.

Two illustrated papers are published monthly and issued free by the Public Relations Office: *Savez-vous Que?*, a bilingual publication in English and French for the general population and *Hindi Newsletter* in Hindustani for the Indo-Mauritian population. The circulation is 6,000 and 5,000 respectively. The office also

issues pamphlets, booklets and posters on behalf of other Government departments. So far, these have dealt mostly with health and nutrition questions.

The Public Relations Officer controls the machinery for publicity, advises the Government on all matters concerning publicity, but is not solely responsible for its initiation. Every officer of Government is expected to be a public relations officer for his own department and to do everything within his power to improve the relations between his department and the public it serves.

The machinery referred to in the last paragraph includes the Mauritius Broadcasting Service, the News Monitoring Service which is an integral part of the M.B.S. and the Mobile Cinema Unit. A survey of the work of the M.B.S. has been given in Chapter X. Reception of Reuter news and the London Press Service continued on a manual basis during 1949 but preparations have been made for the change-over in 1950 to the automatic recording system known as Hellschreiber.

The Mobile Cinema Unit, a most valuable gift from the war-time Ministry of Information, is deservedly popular throughout Mauritius. Far more demands are received for visits of the Cinema that can be satisfied. In 1947 a regular itinerary was worked out for the northern and southern districts in consultation with the Civil Commissioners for these areas, and a similar itinerary was adopted in 1948 for the districts of Moka-Flacq. Arrangements were also made with the Education Department for school shows in the rural districts where electricity is not available, the other schools being covered by the department's projector. The Mobile Cinema Unit concentrates mainly on the remoter rural districts. People collect together from miles around wherever the Unit is booked to give a show and audiences varying between 1,500 and 4,000 are common. Both sound and silent pictures are shown and commentaries are given in French, Creole and Hindustani. The Commentator also gives brief talks over the microphone on malaria control, sanitation, food production and similar topics. Departmental notices likely to interest rural audiences are also broadcast over the van's loudspeakers in the intervals between films. A fairly comprehensive film library, the gift of the Central Office of Information and the British Council, is available both for Mobile Cinema Shows and for issue on loan to the Education Department, Military and individual possessors of 16-mm projectors. The dependency of Rodriguez has been supplied with a 16-mm silent projector and supplies of films are despatched on each shipping opportunity. Provision has been made for the purchase in 1950 of a sound projector for Rodriguez.

During 1949 the Mobile Cinema Unit gave a total of 285 shows, of which 228 were public and 57 special (to medical audiences, the Mauritius Police, etc.). These shows were attended by an estimated grand total of 476,164 persons. Estimates of attendances are made by the police officers present at shows.

The Labour Welfare Fund Committee has agreed to meet the capital cost of a second Mobile Cinema Unit in 1950 provided recurrent expenditure is paid for from Government Funds.

Chapter IV: Weights and Measures

The metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being:

1 French foot	= 1.06 English feet
1 gaulette	= 10 French feet
1 arpent	= 40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres
1 toise	= 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use:

1 barrique	= 50 gallons (cane juice etc.)
1 bouteille	= 800 c.c. (liquid)
1 chopine	= $\frac{1}{2}$ bouteille
1 corde	= 80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood).

The gaulette is used only in the field, and the *livre* (one pound) is used currently to mean $\frac{1}{2}$ Kilogram, that is 1.10 English pounds.

Weights, measures and scales are controlled by the Police throughout the Colony. The control of weigh-bridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board (Department of Agriculture).

The following statement shows the number of weights and measures stamped by the Police during the year:

Weights	...	...	...	...	22,570
Scales	...	...	...	...	5,058
Measures of capacity	...	...	...	...	3,693
Measures of length	...	...	...	...	309
Weighing machines	...	...	...	...	106

The duties collected in this connection amounted to Rs. 7,437.80.

158 offences under the Weights and Measures Ordinance were detected during the year, and 139 weights, 42 measures of capacity and 12 scales were seized by the Police.

Money values throughout this report are given in rupees and cents. The rate of exchange is Rs. 13.33 to the £. For ease of calculation, the Rupee may be taken as the equivalent to $\frac{1}{6}$.

Chapter V : Newspapers and Periodicals

Name	Proprietors or Publishers	Editor	Language	Remarks
DAILY :				
<i>Le Cernéen</i> ...	... Le Cerneen Company Ltd.	Hervé de Sornay	... French and English	
<i>Le Mauricien</i> ...	... Hon. Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur	Gabriel Martial	... French and English	
<i>Avancee</i> ...	... The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd.	Hon. Aunauth Beejadhur	French and English	
<i>L'Oeuvre</i> ...	... Dr. the Hon. Edgar Millien	Dr. the Hon. Edgar Millien	French and English	
<i>L'Après-Midi</i> ...	... Gaston Pierre	Gaston Pierre	... French and English	
<i>La Vie Ouvrière</i> ...	... Hon. Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur	Joseph Gérard	... French	
<i>The New Era</i> ...	... H. K. Naudeer	H. K. Naudeer	... English	
<i>Chinese Commercial Paper</i> ...	Long-Siong Ah-Keng	Koon Tin Chun	... Chinese	
<i>Chinese Daily News</i> ...	... Li-Pak-U	Li-Pak-U	... Chinese	
BI-WEEKLY :				
<i>Janata</i> ...	... The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd.	Hon. J. N. Roy	... Hindi	

CHAPTER V : NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS—Continued

Name	Proprietors or Publishers	Editor	Language	Remarks
WEEKLY :				
<i>Arya-Vir Jagriti</i> ...	L. Moothien ...	Pt : Luxmandut		
<i>Espace</i> ...	Le Cernéen Cy. Ltd. ...	Noël Marrier d'Union-ville	French	
<i>La Vie Catholique</i> ...	L'Union Catholique ...	Editorial Board presided over by Mr. Edwin de Robillard	French	Religious
MONTHLY :				
<i>Church Magazine</i> ...	Bishop of Mauritius ...	Bishop of Mauritius	English	Church of England
<i>Revue de Marie</i> ...	Marie Peril ...	Marie Peril	French	Roman Catholic, religious
<i>Scout Digest</i> ...	H. E. Patel ...	H. E. Patel	French and English	
<i>Scouts de Saint Louis</i> ...	—	Rev. Jean Margeot	French	Roman Catholic
BI-MONTHLY :				
<i>Legionnaires</i> ...	Legion de Marie ...	Jacques Castel	French	Roman Catholic, religious
<i>La Croisade des Jeunes</i> ...	Rev. Père Le Juge de Segrais	Rev. Père Le Juge de Segrais	French	Roman Catholic, religious
<i>Essor</i> ...	Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis	Editorial Board	French	Literary
<i>The Breeders' News</i> ...	Breeders' Club ...	Hervé de Sornay	French and English	Livestock farming, etc., Read mostly by members
<i>Revue Agricole de L'île Maurice</i>	La Société des Chimistes de l'île Maurice	Alfred North-Coombes...	English and French	Sugar Industry and Agricultural Science

CHAPTER V : NEWSPAPER AND PERIODICALS—Continued

Name	Proprietors or Publishers	Editor	Language	Remarks
QUARTERLY :				
<i>Mauritius Quarterly Directory</i>	André Bax ...	André Bax ...	English ...	General information, guide book, etc.
<i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i> ...	Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens	Président, Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens	French	
<i>Sève</i> ...	Le Cercle de la Jeunesse...	Editorial Board	French ...	Literary
<i>Tropical Magazine Mauritius Correspondence and Exchange Club</i>	René J. Noyau ...	René J. Noyau ...	French and English	Philately
<i>La Revue Artistique</i> ...	J. I. Tranquille ...	J. I. Tranquille	French and English	Literary
<i>The Tamil Voice</i> ...	Tamil Maha Sangam	Secretary, Tamil Maha Sangam	English and Tamil ...	Organ of the Tamil Maha Sangam
<i>Indian Cultural Review</i> ...	Indian Cultural Association	Dr. the Hon. S. Ram-goolam	French and English	Literary
<i>Diocesan Quarterly Magazine</i>	Bishop of Mauritius	Bishop of Mauritius	French and English	Church of England
<i>Spiritus</i> ...	Saint Esprit College	Rev. A. Meaney	French and English	Literary
ANNUAL :				
<i>Mauritius Institute Bulletin</i>	Mauritius Institute	The Board of Directors of the Mauritius Institute and Public Museum	French and English	Scientific Papers on flora and fauna of Mascarenes
<i>The Muslim Youth Bulletin</i>	The Muslim Youth Brigade	Eshack Abdul Latif	French and English	Organ of Muslim Youth Brigade

Chapter VI : Bibliography

Appendix I to this Report gives a list of Development and Welfare publications issued by the Government of Mauritius since 1944. Appendix II lists other government publications of general interest on sale to the public. A selection of books on Mauritius available from other sources is given in Appendix III and a list of out-of-print books of interest to students of history, biography and literature is given in Appendix IV. Further information about the bibliography of Mauritius may be obtained on application to the Custodian of Archives, Port Louis.

Non-government publications of interest issued during 1949 include an interesting historical work "*La Découverte des Iles Mascareignes*" by Mr. Georges de Visselou Guimbeau, F.R.G.S. A lavishly illustrated reprint of "*Paul et Virginie*" was produced in a limited edition, the artist being Mr. Hugues de Jouvancourt. This is the first occasion on which this famous French novel of the early 19th Century has been printed and published by a local firm. Father Dussercle, whose literary essays have delighted a generation of Mauritians has produced another gem in "*Agaléga Petite Ile*."

APPENDIX I

Mauritius Development and Welfare

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

No.	Date of Publication
1. <i>Memorandum</i> by Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., on the Development and Welfare Organisation	February 1944
2. <i>Report on Health Conditions in Mauritius</i> by Dr. A. Rankine, M.C.	March 1944
3. <i>Mauritius Land Settlement Report 1944</i> ...	November 1944
4. <i>Memorandum on the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and on Schemes</i> already submitted	February 1945
5. <i>Progress Report No. 1</i>	February 1945
6. <i>Inaugural Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee</i>	March 1945
7. <i>Milk Production and Distribution, Creameries and Ghee Refineries, Demonstration Poultry Farm 1944, Lard Factory 1944</i>	November 1944
8. <i>Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan</i> , Report by H. C. King	January 1944
9. <i>Co-operation in Mauritius</i> . Report by W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G.	April 1945
10. <i>Statement of Financial Implications of Proposed Health and Education Services</i>	April 1945
11. <i>Memorandum embodying suggestions for financing the proposed Health and Education Services</i>	April 1945
12. <i>Educational Services including Training College</i>	May 1945
13. <i>A Scheme for a Teachers' Training College and attached Schools</i>	June 1945
14. <i>Report on sanitary conditions affecting an outbreak of Poliomyelitis in Mauritius</i> by Dr. Kenneth Martin and Mr. J. S. Stirton	July 1945

APPENDIX I—continued

No.					Date of Publication
15.	<i>Memorandum on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Mauritian Ex-Servicemen</i> by Major A. E. de Chazal, O.B.E., M.R.C.P., M.S., F.R.C.S.				July 1945
16.	<i>Irrigation Proposals</i>				August 1945
17.	<i>Mauritius Hemp Industry</i>				August 1945
18.	<i>Report of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee</i>				September 1945
19.	<i>Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan</i> (Revision) by H. C. King				December 1945
20.	Supplement to Mauritius Government Gazette No. 8 of 1946—Secretary of State's Circular Despatch regarding the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1945 ...				November 1945
21.	Memorandum by Dr. The Honourable A. E. de Chazal on <i>Proposed Scheme for Improvement and Expansion of the Medical and Health Services in Mauritius</i> ...				May 1946
22.	<i>Nutritional Investigations in Mauritius 1942-45. Final Report</i>				May 1946
23.	<i>Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan 1946-47 to 1955-56 including draft estimates for 1946-47</i>				June 1946
24.	<i>Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Estimates</i> ...				June 1946
25.	<i>Progress Report No. 2</i>				June 1946
26.	<i>A small scale experiment in the use of DDT in Mauritius</i> by H. D. Tonking, R. Lavoipierre and C. M. Courtois ..				June 1946
27.	<i>An Essay on Housing, Urban and Rural Planning with special reference to Mauritius</i> by R. Lavoipierre				August 1946
28.	<i>Report on a visit to Trinidad, Louisiana and other countries</i> by P. O. Wiehe ..				July 1946

APPENDIX I—continued

No.	Date of Publication
29. <i>Report on Estate Housing, Slum Clearance and Town and Regional Planning in the Island of Mauritius</i> —First Report by P. M. Aldred	September 1946
30. <i>Second Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee</i>	July 1946
31. <i>Despatches in connection with Land Settlement Schemes</i>	December 1945 March 1946
32. <i>Ten Year Plan 1946-47 to 1955-56 and Estimates for 1946-47 as passed by the Council of Government of the 22nd October, 1946</i>	
33. <i>Revised Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan</i>	October 1946
34. <i>Report on The Tea Industry of Mauritius</i> by Captain E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (retd.)	September 1946
35. <i>Milk Production and Distribution. Steps to implement recommendations of the 1944 Report by a Sub-committee of the Mauritius Breeders' Club</i>	December 1946
36. <i>Report on the possibilities of composting urban refuse in Mauritius</i> by J. P. J. Van Vuren	December 1946
37. <i>Progress Report No. 3</i>	July 1947
38. <i>Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan—1946-47 to 1955-56. Estimates for 1947-48 as passed by the Council of Government on 8th July, 1947</i>	July 1947
39. <i>Report on the Engineering aspect of the Sewage Disposal of Plaines Wilhems District and on the existing and proposed filtration plants connected with Domestic Water Supply</i>	August 1947

APPENDIX I—continued

No.	Date of Publication
40. <i>The use of DDT Residual Sprays in the control of malaria over an area of 16 square miles in Mauritius</i>	August 1947
41. <i>Report on an investigation into the possibilities of cultivating Tung Oil Trees in Mauritius</i>	September 1947
42. <i>Social Planning and Welfare</i> by L. Silberman	October 1947
43. <i>Report on the possibilities of Land Settlement in Mauritius</i>	January 1948
44. <i>Reports on the Mauritius Fibre Industry</i> by G. Winslow Lock, O.B.E. and P. W. Lees	May 1948
45. <i>Draft Development and Welfare Estimates for 1948-49</i>	May 1948
46. <i>Development and Welfare Progress Report No. 4</i>	June 1948
47. <i>Memorandum on Development and Welfare 10 Year Plan and Estimates 1948-49</i>	September 1948
48. <i>Development and Welfare Estimates 1948-49</i>	January 1949
49. <i>Report on the Housing of Sugar Estate Workers</i> by Prof. L. W. Thornton White, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.A.	December 1948
50. <i>Draft Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50</i>	July 1949
51. <i>Memorandum on Draft Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50</i>	July 1949
52. <i>Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50</i>	December 1949
53. <i>Memorandum on Development and Welfare Estimates 1949-50</i>	December 1949

APPENDIX II

Government Publications of General Interest

(ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, PORT LOUIS)

<i>Title</i>	<i>Rs. c</i>
Blue Book for 1946-47	10.00
Census in Mauritius, 1944, Final Report on—M. Koenig ...	5.00
Civil Service Commission 1945, Report of the—(per set of 3 vols.)	15.00
Colonial Annual Report on Mauritius, 1948	2.00
Commission of Enquiry into Unrest on Sugar Estates in Mauritius, 1937, Report of	5.00
Commission of Enquiry into the Disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943, Report of ...	2.50
Commission of Enquiry in General position and Operations of Insurance Companies in Mauritius, 1939	1.00
Commission of Enquiry into the Supplies Control Depart- ment, 1949	3.00
Constitution of the Whitley Council for the Civil Service of Mauritius	0.10
Defence Regulations	5.00
Digest of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Mauritius 1926-1943	50.00
Emigration from Mauritius to North Bornéo—The Project of Wilkinson	0.45
Estimates 1947-48	5.50
Estimates 1948-49	5.50
G.N. No. 3 of 1948. Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the Realm amending Letters Patent of 11.9.1913	—
Financial Regulations—General Orders, Part II	1.00
Guide Élémentaire d'Accouchement (3ème édition) ...	2.50
Government Gazette No. 4 of 7th January, 1948 containing Letters Patent, Royal Instruction and Order in Council re: New Constitution	1.00
Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Resources in Mauritius, 1940—Sir Bede Clifford	30.00

APPENDIX II—*continued*

<i>Title</i>	<i>Rs. c.</i>
Itinerary of Roads in Mauritius with map (1925)— F. M. Desbleds	7.50
Indigenous Species in Mauritius, Interim Report on— H. C. King	0.50
Leave and Passage Regulations—General Orders, Part IV	0.50
Le Jardin Potager—G. A. North-Coombes (2ème édition)	0.35
Malaria, Prevention of, 1908—Ronald Ross	2.00
Mare-aux-Vacoas, Notes on—Harriot	1.00
Mauritius Economic Commission 1947-48, Report—Part I	3.00
Mauritius Law Reports 1928-48 (each)	20.00
Meat and Milk Commission, 1942, Report of the	1.00
Medical and Sanitary Matters, Report on—Dr. Balfour ...	15.00
Nutritional Investigations in Mauritius (Final Report) 1942-45	1.00
Nutritional Macrocytic Anæmia, by E. George Sippe, M.B., B.S.	14.00
Rail, Road, Harbour and Lighterage Commission, 1940— Report of	0.60
Sanitary Conditions affecting an outbreak of Poliomyelitis in Mauritius	0.20
Secondary Education in Mauritius, Report on—by A. E. Nichols	0.50
Social Insurance Schemes in Mauritius	0.25
Story of the 1945 Cyclones—by K. Hazareesingh	2.00
Survey and Field Treatment of Malaria in Mauritius— George Sippe, M.B., B.S., and May Twining, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (published by Crown Agents)	2.25
Trade Unionism in Mauritius—Ken Baker	1.00
Trade Unionism—Ken Baker	0.25
Trade and Shipping Returns, 1945	2.50
Two talks given on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service by Professor Thorton-White and Mr. Leo Silberman, Town Planning Experts	0.10
Water Supply, Report on 1922—Mansergh	2.00

APPENDIX III

Books on Mauritius published by Non-Government Organisations

Title	Publishers or Agents for sale	Price
<i>Port Louis—Deux Siècles d'Histoire 1735–1935</i> (1936) by A. Toussaint	The author, Curepipe Mauritius.	1st edition, Rs. 25.00 2nd edition Rs. 8.00
<i>L'Ile d'Aigle—Naufrage de la barque Diégo</i> (1936) by Fr. Dussercle.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis, Mauritius.	Rs. 2.50
<i>La Pluie à l'Ile Maurice</i> (1935) by Marc Herchenroder.	do.	Rs. 8.00
<i>La Canne à Sucre à l'Ile Maurice</i> (1920) by P. de Sornay.	do.	Rs. 10.00
<i>The Evolution of Sugarcane Culture in Mauritius</i> (1937) by A. North- Coombes.	do.	Rs. 8.00
<i>Mauritius and the War</i> (1940) by the Indian Cultural Association. —	do.	Rs. 5.00
<i>Grains de Sables</i> (1946) by by Georges Pitot (an account of Mauritius troops in the Middle East).	do.	Rs. 2.50
<i>L'Ile Maurice : Guide Illustré</i> (1936) by C. Charoux.	do.	R. 1.50

APPENDIX III—continued

<i>Title</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents for sale</i>	<i>Price</i>
<i>Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbock</i> (1941) by A. Bax.	do.	Rs. 10.00
<i>Escale aux Pamplémousses</i> (1947) by Clément Charoux.	do.	Rs. 3.00
<i>Le Diocèse de Port Louis</i> (1947) by Mgr. J. Mamet.	do.	Rs. 6.00
<i>Guide Pratique et Moderne du Petit Eleveur Mauricien</i> (1945) by Dr. Maingard, A. Darné and Capt. F. Wilson.	The Standard Printing Establishment, Port Louis, Mauritius.	Rs. 5.00
<i>The Grasses of Mauritius and Rodriguez</i> (1940) by C. E. Hubbard and R. E. Vaughan.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	4s. 6d.
<i>Etude sur les trajectoires des cyclones</i> , by R. de Chasteauneuf.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis,	Rs. 5.00
<i>Traité élémentaire de la théorie des cyclones dans l'Océan Indien Sud</i> , by J. R. Raffray.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis,	Rs. 5.00
<i>Dictionary of Mauritian Biography</i> Nos. 1-23.	Standard Printing Establishment.	Between Rs. 1.00 and Rs. 2.00 per No.
<i>Early Almanachs of Mau- ritius</i> , by Dr. A. Foussaint.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis,	—

APPENDIX III—continued

Title	Publishers or Agents for sale	Price
<i>Bulletin de la Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Mau- rice, 1945-47.</i>	do.	Rs. 5.00
<i>Cahiers Mauriciens, 1946.</i>	do.	Rs. 2.50
<i>Cahiers Mauriciens, 1947.</i>	do.	Rs. 2.50
<i>La Découverte des Iles Mascareignes</i> by Georges de Visdelou Guimbeau, F.R.G.S.	do.	Rs. 10.00
<i>Ile Maurice et sa Civil- isation.</i>	G. Durassie & Cie. 64, boule- vard Saint- Germain Paris.	Rs. 50.00
<i>La défense de notre patri- moine</i> , by Pierre de Sornay.	Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-operative.	Rs. 3.00
<i>Visits and Despatches (1598-1948)</i> by P. J. Barnwell, M.A.	Standard Printing Establishment.	Rs. 10.00

MAPS OF MAURITIUS

<i>Map of Mauritius</i> (quarter inch to mile).	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd. Port Louis,	Rs. 0.25
<i>Ordnance Survey Map</i> (Six sheets: one inch to Mile).	E. Stanford, Ltd. London.	15s. 0d.
<i>The Mauritius Atlas.</i>	Collins- Longman, London.	3s. 6d.

APPENDIX IV

Out-of-Print books on Mauritius

Title

(a) GENERAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

Mauritius Illustrated (London, 1914) by A. Macmillan.

L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921) by W. E. Hart.

Island of Mauritius (Mauritius, 1928) by R. Philogène.

(b) HISTORY.

T'eylandt Mauritius (1598-1710), (Mauritius, 1905), by A. Pitot.

L'Ile de France (1715-1810), (Mauritius, 1905), by A. Pitot.

L'Ile Maurice (1810-1833), by A. Pitot.

The History of Mauritius or the Isle of France (London, 1801), by Charles Grant, Viscount de Vaux.

Ile de France. Documents pour servir à son histoire Civile et Militaire (Mauritius, 1925), by St. Elme le Duc.

Ile de France sous Decaen (1803-1810) (Paris 1901), by Henri Prentout.

Le combat du Grand' Port et la fi de l'occupation française (Mauritius, 1910), by Léon de Froberville.

Sea fights and corsairs of the Indian Ocean, being the naval history of Mauritius from 1715 to 1810. (Mauritius, 1934), by H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.

Some account of the state of slavery in Mauritius since the British occupation in 1810 (Mauritius, 1830), by Charles Telfair.

Mauritius, Records of private and public life (1871-1874), (Edinburgh, 1894), by Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon.

(c) TRAVELS.

Creoles and Coolies ; or five years in Mauritius (London, 1859), by Rev. Patrick Beaton.

Sub-tropical rambles in the land of the Aphanapteryx, (London, 1873), by Colonel Nicholas Pike.

APPENDIX IV—*continued*

Title

(d) ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL.

Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1935), by Aunauth Beejadhur.

Report on the prevention of malaria in Mauritius (London, 1908), by Ronald Ross.

Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses dépendances (Mauritius, 1886), by Baron d'Unienville.

The Sugar Industry of Mauritius. A study in correlation. (London, 1919), by A. Walter.

(e) NATURAL HISTORY.

The Dodo and its kindred. (London, 1848), by H. E. Strickland and A. G. Melville.

Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles (London, 1877), by J. G. Baker.

Faune malacogique terrestre et fluviatile des îles Mascareignes (Paris, 1921), by Louis Germain.

(f) FOLK-LORE.

Les parlers créoles des Mascareignes (Paris, 1891), by A. Dietrich.

Etude sur le patois créole mauricien (Nancy, 1880), by Charles Baissac.

Le Folk-lore de l'Ile Maurice (texte créole et traduction française) (Paris, 1888), by Charles Baissac.

(g) FICTION.

Paul et Virginie, (first edition published in 1838), by Bernardin de Saint Pierre.

Les guêpes mauriciennes, (Paris, 1861) by Matou.

The Island, (London 1914), by Elenor Mordaunt.

Dans les îles là-haut Archipel de Chagos (Mauritius, 1937), by Father Dussercle.

NOTE—A copy of each of these works is available at the Carnegie Library, Curepipe, Mauritius. In England most of them can be consulted in the British Museum and the Colonial Office, Library.

APPENDIX V

Mauritius Development and Welfare
Ten Year Plan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I.—*Summary of Estimated Revenue*

	<i>Estimated Receipts over Ten-Year Period</i>
	Rs.
1. Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (the Colony's allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act 1945) ...	23,330,000
2. Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (Research)	1,150,000
3. Loan (to be raised in the U.K.)	50,000,000
4. Subventions and Reimbursements (from local Funds and General Revenue)* ...	28,436,000
	<hr/>
	Rs. 102,916,000
	<hr/>

* The details of the contributions from local sources are:

	Rs.
Surplus Funds	11,300,000
Mauritius 3% Loan 1961	3,140,000
War Risk Insurance Fund	770,000
Contributions from Revenue	12,500,000
Miscellaneous other receipts	726,000
	<hr/>
	Rs. 28,436,000
	<hr/>

Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—*continued*

II.—*Summary of Expenditure*

<i>Heads</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure over Ten-Year Period</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure 1.7.46 to 30.6.49</i>
		Rs.	Rs.
1.	Central Administration ...	694,000	971,920*
2.	Agriculture ...	3,508,000	1,075,270
3.	Education (Training College) ...	2,200,000	792,560
4.	Health ...	6,408,000	2,050,120
5.	Nutrition ...	267,000	236,920
6.	Settlement ...	864,000	81,050
7.	Irrigation and Water Supplies ...	25,000,000	3,564,320
8.	Buildings ...	11,119,000	1,557,330
9.	Roads ...	3,600,000	1,781,080
10.	Research ...	4,358,000	1,908,730
11.	Sugar Industry ...	6,000,000	5,728,910
12.	Interest Charges ...	6,000,000	—
13.	Scholarships and Training Grants ...	405,000	32,330
14.	Sewerage ...	9,013,000	86,190
15.	Unallocated ...	23,680,000	—
		Rs. 102,916,000	19,867,630

* Include Rs. 776,430 of Unallocated Stores not yet transferred to other Heads.

The Expenditure for the period 1946-49 was financed as follows:

	Rs.
(1) From the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund ...	2,376,310
(2) From advances pending the raising of a loan ...	6,763,140
(3) From Subventions and Reimbursements ...	10,728,180

Rs. 19,867,630

III.—*Approved grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act*

(a) *Development Grants*

Scheme No.	Description	Amount of Grant	
		£	Rs.
D. 397	Secretary for Development and Welfare	2,150	28,667
D. 531	Training College (Clearing and levelling of site)	4,500	60,000
D. 747	Teachers' Training College (Building)	145,000	1,940,000
D. 667	Employment of Woman Nutrition Officer for 3 years ...	2,055	27,400
D. 670	} Scholarships	17,141	228,547
D. 677 G			
D. 706			
D. 760			
D. 770			
D. 1022	} Appointment of Land Settlement Officer	4,420	58,933
D. 1217			
D. 736			
D. 746 A-D	Anti Malaria Works	210,550	2,807,333
D. 983	Construction of a Pilot Decorticating Machine	1,000	13,333
D. 1046	Geological Survey	1,900	25,333
TOTAL ...		389,216	5,189,546

(b) *Research Grants*

R. 38	Biological Control of <i>Cordia Macrostachya</i>	4,730	63,067
R. 39	Establishment of a Fisheries Research Station	2,850	38,000
R. 88 A-J	Mauritius Seychelles Fisheries Survey	52,794	703,927
R. 138	Visit of an Expert to investigate the economic possibilities of using night soil for the manufacture of compost ...	430	5,733
R. 190	Experiments in the growing of <i>Aleurites Fordii</i>	340	4,533
R. 227	Mosquito Eradication Campaign	29,000	386,667
TOTAL ...		90,144	1,201,927

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has declined from 1.1 billion to 800 million. The number of people who are malnourished has declined from 1.5 billion to 1 billion. The number of people who are obese has increased from 100 million to 300 million. The number of people who are overweight has increased from 100 million to 300 million. The number of people who are obese and overweight has increased from 100 million to 300 million. The number of people who are obese and overweight has increased from 100 million to 300 million.

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COLONIAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORTS

BASUTOLAND	GOLD COAST	NTHN. RHODESIA
BECHUANALAND	HONG KONG	NYASALAND
PROTECTORATE	JAMAICA	SARAWAK
BRITISH GUIANA	KENYA	SIERRA LEONE
BR. HONDURAS	MAURITIUS	SINGAPORE
BRUNEI	FED. OF MALAYA	SWAZILAND
CYPRUS	NIGERIA	TRINIDAD
FIJI	NORTH BORNEO	UGANDA

BIENNIAL REPORTS

ADEN	*GIBRALTAR	*ST. VINCENT
*BAHAMAS	*GILBERT AND	SEYCHELLES
*BARBADOS	ELLICE IS.	SOLOMON IS.
BERMUDA	*GRENADA	*SOMALILAND
CAYMAN IS.	LEEWARD IS.	*TONGA
DOMINICA	NEW HEBRIDES	TURKS AND
*FALKLAND IS.	*ST. HELENA	CAICOS IS.
*GAMBIA	ST. LUCIA	ZANZIBAR

* These territories will produce a Report for 1949 and the remainder for 1949-50.

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